2023 has been a transformative year, fueled by our 2022 designation and funding as a Title VI National Resource Center. New staff and faculty affiliates have injected energy as we’ve offered increased scholarship support, and expanded our engagement with partners and publics.

Keith Brown
Melikian Center Director
2023 was our first full year of operations as a Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center - one of 12 nation-wide for Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies. Key lines of effort include supporting students to increase their foreign language and area studies proficiency; and increasing US public understanding of the region's significance.

**Impact Highlights**

2023 was our first full year of operations as a Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center - one of 12 nation-wide for Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies. Key lines of effort include supporting students to increase their foreign language and area studies proficiency; and increasing US public understanding of the region's significance.

**In 2023**

100+ students participated in either immersive language study or faculty-led programs in Albania, Armenia, Bosnia-Hercegovina, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Poland and Uzbekistan.

ASU Students and faculty won over 30 national awards including one Pickering Fellowship, 2 Critical Language Scholarships, 7 Fulbright teaching or research awards, and 8 Title VI FLAS fellowships.

35 students pursued in-depth research on the region through certificate capstones, senior thesis projects, internships or undergraduate fellowship programs.

The Melikian Center hosted or co-hosted over 40 public events, reaching over 2,100 attendees, and featuring in-person presenters from 12 countries of the region, including Kosovo, North Macedonia, Ukraine, Romania, Latvia, Hungary, Belarus, Armenia, Serbia, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Russia.
ASU’s Critical Languages Institute has offered high-quality, high-impact instruction for over 30 years, with over 2,000 learners enrolled since 1991. Following three years of adjustments to COVID-19, CLI 2023 reconfirmed the value of classroom camaraderie, mutual support and human connection in the intense and transformative work of learning foreign languages and cultures.

In addition to established federal funding sources for ROTC cadets through Project Global Officer and graduate students through Title VIII, 2023 added FLAS fellowships for undergraduate students, providing an additional $200,000 in funding to 14 recipients.

Flas funding from the Department of Education takes the Critical Languages Institute to the next level. It expands present opportunities for ASU students while paving a future pathway to national scholarships and career opportunities.

- Jamie Edmonds
  CLI Director
Public Programming and Partnerships

Creative Horizons

Together with University partners in Ohio and Florida, the Melikian Center organized events and created digital content to showcase the role of art in bearing witness to violence, and celebrating human resilience. These included an exhibit of Felix Lembersky’s Babyn Yar paintings, and a documentary short featuring his grand-daughter Yelena.

GIST Innovates the Balkans

Advancing ASU’s expertise in entrepreneurship and innovation, Melikian Faculty Affiliate Visar Berisha co-led the Global Innovation through Science and Technology (GIST) program in the Western Balkans, providing guidance and know-how to start up businesses in the region.

American Studies in Armenia

As part of Yerevan State University’s new master’s program in American Studies, faculty affiliates Claudia Sadowski-Smith, Matthew Slaboch and Claudia Mesch taught three 2-week modules. The foci for these interdisciplinary online courses were U.S. Migration; American Founding Principles, and Art and Politics in the U.S. Since 1945.

Kosovo Ambassador Visits

The Melikian Center hosted campus visitors from several Embassies, including in November, Ilir Dugolli, Ambassador of Kosovo to the United States (pictured above with David Brokaw). He spoke about the positive impacts of ASU’s knowledge-sharing over two decades, especially in establishing sustainability studies and industry partnerships.

In Memoriam

Walter “Walt” Winius, Jr. 1928 - 2023
Gabriel “Gabe” Reuben 1925 - 2023
Sanford “Sandy” Couch 1929 - 2023

Fund-raising totals

In 2023, the Melikian Center received:

- $1,606,321 in Federal grants
- $155,896 in Private Foundation awards
- $158,000 in philanthropic gifts from 30 donors

Arizona Global

The Melikian Center was recognized by the Phoenix Committee on Foreign Relations as 2023 Corporate Sponsor of the Year. The collaboration extends beyond public events to connect ASU students with PCFR members through a new course, in which they generate oral histories of international experience.

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Want more information?