

## Ambassadors of International Culture and Interactive Learning ATICC's educational programs enjoy their inaugural 2008 success



Some of our students met with Mayor Adrian Fenty at the IFE/INFO forum with Mayor Adrian Fenty in May 2008. Photo: Tony Powell



Students with the First Lady of Poland, Mrs. Maria Kaczyńska and Mrs. Joan Ashe, wife of the US Ambassador to Poland at the Presidential Palace in Warsaw, Poland, June 17, 2008. Photo: Magdalena Pinkowska

The **ATICC**'s mission is to build international cultural awareness, provide a high standard of international repertoire based on close relations with the diplomatic and cultural representatives of different countries in the United States, and provide international interactive educational programs for the youth of the District of Columbia, DC Metro area, and around the US.

**The Ambassadors of International Culture** – ATICC's educational program is carefully designed to give each student a chance to become a well educated future leader through studying various cultures around the world and interacting with the international leaders of today. Through the **Interactive Learning Program** the students will better comprehend cultural artistic compositions and find the joy of discovering new customs through art, music, dance, song, crafts, cooking, theater games, and performance. The Center is devoted to working with young students to increase their social skills, reading comprehension, movement, and speaking skills. In addition, we also incorporate more traditional teaching techniques, such as lectures, reading, and demonstrations.

Through the year-long educational theater programs, students and teachers participated in many classes that included lectures given by diplomatic representatives of the Embassy of Poland in Washington DC and the US Embassy in Warsaw, Poland as well as drama and art workshops lead by professional drama and art teachers who taught them about Polish art and history through ATICC's Interactive Learning Program.

"The students also familiarized themselves with those who made major contributions to the world such as Copernicus, Madam Curie, Chopin and others. The production of *Poland the Beautiful: An Imaginary Flight* gave the audience a tour of Poland."

– Teacher Valyncia Lindsey

We played many theater games that helped the students gain more strength in their learning abilities, improved their posture, speaking and singing skills, focus, and concentration and reading comprehension. But most importantly, they discovered the joy of expanding both their imagination and desire for knowledge.

Theater is a place where all art forms merge together; therefore it was important to ATICC to engage the students in the visual and performing arts of international culture. The culmination of the program was a highly successful performance of the show called, *Poland the Beautiful, an Imaginary Flight* written and directed by Hanna



Students' Paintings of Birch Trees

Bondarewska and performed by the students at DC Public Schools, the Embassy of Poland and finally in Poland. At the special invitation of the First Lady of Poland, Mrs. Maria Kaczyńska, the students traveled to Poland to perform at the Presidential Palace in Warsaw for the First Lady of Poland, many VIPs, and international diplomatic representatives.

Thanks to Mrs. Hanna Reiter, wife of the former Ambassador of Poland to the US and the Chancellor of the International Order of the Smile, Mr. Marek Michalak, the students performed at the Special BCC Gala in Wyścigi, at the Main Square in Kraków, and at the Świdnica Theater.



Świdnica Theater

The 24 participants in the group met many interesting people who guided them through the historical and cultural sites of Poland, and introduced them to Polish politics, customs and traditions. We toured historical and cultural sites in Warsaw, Toruń, the Mazurian Lakes, Kraków, Wieliczka, and Świdnica. We were challenged to hike Śnieżka, the highest peak of the Sudety Mountains, ride horses, boat, and kayak, and be part of the team-building competition discovering the treasures in the old gold mine in Złoty Stok.



*At the Polish Radio station*

We had many spectacular opportunities to participate in “hands-on” experiences and interact with our Polish peers. The students were able to explore Polish TV and Radio stations and interact with prominent media people who featured our students in Polish and international news and domestic newspapers.

"This program helps develop children's talents and skills," said (Mrs. Hanna) Reiter. "Learning about another culture broadens their horizons and builds a special bond between them and the country they learn about. Thanks to this project children can start feeling like citizens of the world."

– The Warsaw Voice

Students like Delante Fludd have returned home not only with cameras full of pictures and hearts full of memories from their expedition to Poland, but also enriched by their experiences with a broader perspective and perception of the world and themselves.

"... my involvement in the program has made me realize that I am a leader and not a follower... I wish that more kids in the inner city could have the opportunity to explore these opportunities that I have experienced because it is "A DREAM COME TRUE." I can truly say that 'I am blessed to have positive people and angels come into my life and open doors for me.'"

– student Delante Fludd



*At the Presidential Palace in Warsaw, Poland*

As part of the **Ambassadors of International Culture** Program in the collaboration with the Youth Global Citizen Program of the Institute for Education, several students from ATICC attended the IFE/INFO 2008 Forum in December at the White House with the White House Chief of Staff, Joshua Bolton as the guest speaker.



*Mr. Joshua Bolton and students at the IFE/INFO 2008 Forum*

The students had the opportunity to mingle with many ambassadors, VIPs and, most notably, listen to remarks given by the Honorable Joshua Bolton about the inner-workings of the White House from an insider's perspective during such a historic transition period.

As in Poland, they had an opportunity to visit the Presidential Palace, so here they were given the opportunity to view the West Wing of the White House. The students were able to represent ATICC and talk about their adventures and experiences in Poland. They were learning how to become the Ambassadors of their own culture.

ATICC is very grateful to our many friends and supporters who helped to make this inaugural year of educational programs so successful and we are looking forward to many more years of creating a Center that will help young people to become wise world citizens. For more information about our programs and repertoire, visit [www.aticc.org](http://www.aticc.org)