

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1303

September 15, 2011

Sherif Soydan
Executive Director, The Niagara Foundation
205 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 2540
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Mr. Soydan:

I would like to extend my congratulations to the Niagara Foundation on another successful year of advocacy aimed at strengthening communities and promoting respect among diverse peoples. The Foundation will host its annual Peace and Dialogue Awards on September 22 to honor the individuals and organizations that have demonstrated exemplary hard work, community service, and devotion to the causes of tolerance and understanding championed by the Niagara Foundation.

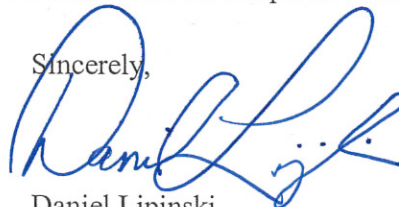
I am pleased to congratulate Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, The Art Institute of Chicago, Boeing Vice President of Global Corporate Citizenship Anne Eleanor Roosevelt, and Council for a Parliament of The World's Religions Executive Director Dirk Ficca as the recipients of the 2011 awards. Each honoree has worked hard to create a social, political, or business environment where individuals from different backgrounds put their differences aside and work together toward the common good. Their efforts exemplify the mission of the Niagara Foundation.

Established in 1997 by Turkish-Americans as an organization devoted to fostering respect and compassion among Turks and Americans, the Niagara Foundation has grown into an influential and widespread institution with branches throughout the Midwest advocating for equality and human rights. Civil society institutions such as the Niagara Foundation are vital to promoting strong values and respect both in the U.S. and abroad.

The Niagara Foundation hosts a number of events throughout the year including lunch forums, lecture series, intercultural trips, and the aforementioned Peace and Dialogue Awards to bring together people from different cultures and create a medium for growth and learning. I was honored to participate in a lunch forum earlier this year on changing the dynamics in Washington and I was able to see firsthand the strong impact the Niagara Foundation is having on our community's discourse.

Congratulations again to the Niagara Foundation and the recipients of the 2011 Peace and Dialogue Awards.

Sincerely,



Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress