

CFR Conference Emphasizes Diversity in Foreign Policy

“We have so many strengths as a nation; one of our greatest strengths is our people,” said National Security Adviser **Susan Rice**, who kicked off the 2014 Conference on Diversity in International Affairs in April. “And if we were harnessing that diversity, we would be making better foreign policy decisions.”

The two-day event was a collaborative effort by the Council, the Global Access Pipeline project, and the International Career Advancement Program, which aims to connect students and professionals from diverse backgrounds to career opportunities in international affairs. The conference drew over three hundred participants from across the country, including CFR members who volunteered to speak on panels and mentor students and young professionals.

“The job market is going to reward those who are able to operate at the intersections

of international affairs today,” said **Vali Nasr**, dean of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, in the keynote address. “You should look for programs that provide you with the right analytical and reasoning tools, understanding of history and strategy, and knowledge of specific areas and issues, that allow you to think about how an intersected world really works.”

The conference was part of CFR’s Expanded Diversity Initiative in Foreign Policy, which is made possible by the generous support of the Robina Foundation. Launched in 2012, the initiative complements the Council’s other long-standing efforts to encourage members of underrepresented groups to participate in the debate and consider careers in foreign policy. *cf*



Vali Nasr discusses U.S. policy on Afghanistan, Egypt, and the International Criminal Court, as well as career advice, with CFR term member Kendra Gaither.



National Security Adviser Susan Rice meets with students and professors at the opening of the conference.