

# "Sustaining Civic Participation in Minority Communities"

Winter 2017 U.S. Mentors Delegation in Europe  
February 18 - March 12, 2017

*Funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of the Educational and Cultural Affairs.  
Organized by WSOS / Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and Development.*

*February 2017*



PROFESSIONAL  
FELLOWS

**GREAT LAKES CONSORTIUM  
for International Training and  
Development (GLC)** — GLC is a  
program of WSOS Community  
Action Commission since 1999.

GLC is a collaborative effort of the  
Bowling Green State University,  
Lourdes University, The University  
of Toledo, and WSOS Community  
Action Commission.

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WSOS/Community  
Development Director

**Dr. Elizabeth Balint**

WSOS/GLC Project  
Manager

**Viktoriya Maryamova**

Program Coordinator

**GLC Toledo Office**

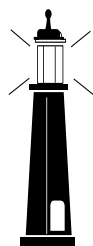
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www.gl-consortium.org



*WSOS Community Action Commission/  
Great Lakes Consortium received a grant  
for FY 2015 Professional Fellows  
Program with the theme of "Sustaining  
Civic Participation in Minority  
Communities", a two-way exchange with  
at least 36 participants from four  
countries of Europe and for 14 U.S.  
mentors. This will be implemented  
between September 2015 and June 2017.*

*The overall goal of this exchange is to  
provide a professional development  
opportunity for up-and-coming and mid-  
level professionals to gain knowledge of  
U.S. practices and create a forum for  
American and foreign participants to  
collaborate and share ideas; and build a  
global network of professionals. As a  
result of this exchange, European and  
U.S. participants will develop enhanced  
leadership and professional skills, build  
mutual understanding, and create lasting  
and sustainable partnerships.*

*European fellows will learn U.S.  
practices in sustaining civic participation  
and advocacy in minority and  
disenfranchised communities (including  
African-American, Latino, Native  
American, Roma, disabled, homeless).  
They will explore diverse community  
organizing methods from across the U.S.  
(urban and rural areas) for citizens  
solving problems in their own  
communities, learn skills in leadership  
development and building community  
organizations, and gain hands-on  
experience at civil society organizations.  
Through internship placements at state or  
local organizations, they will gain  
experience and adaptable approaches that  
they can implement after their return.*

*U.S. Mentors will travel for a reciprocal  
visit to directly support follow-on*

projects and long-term collaboration.  
American and European participants will  
have an opportunity to share professional  
expertise and gain a deeper understanding  
of the societies, cultures and people of  
other countries.

*The first delegation with a total of 18  
Professional fellows from Bulgaria,  
Hungary, Romania and Slovakia visited  
the U.S. from April 18 to June 3, 2016. A  
second European delegation with a total  
of 18 Professional fellows visited the  
United States from October 6 to  
November 18, 2016. European Fellows  
from both, spring and fall delegations had  
experienced the American family life and  
the diversity in the U.S. through staying  
with American host families during their  
internships in different states across the  
country. They had opportunities to  
participate in seminars, round-table  
discussions, site visits, and had  
interactions with U.S. leaders. The six  
weeks Professional Fellows Program  
provided an individually tailored  
internship experience, mentorship, access  
to multicultural events and volunteer  
activities, and the opportunity to  
participate in the Professional Fellows  
Congress in Washington, D.C.*

*The first delegation with 5 U.S. Mentors  
was traveling to Europe in June 2016 and  
stayed in Europe from June 26 to July 19.  
The second delegation with 7 U.S.  
mentors traveled to Europe from August  
23 to September 19, 2016. Participants of  
both delegations visited Bulgaria,  
Hungary, Romania and Slovakia on  
separate individual schedules providing  
trainings, workshops and contributed to  
follow on activities of their mentees. The  
U.S. mentors provided joint workshops  
with the alumni and on-site consultation.*

*The third outbound delegation with 12 U.S. mentors* will travel to Europe from February 18 through March 12, 2017. Each US mentor will stay on this program for 14 days on individual schedules with support and program arrangement of his/her European fellow whom the U.S. mentor hosted during the spring or fall of 2016. US mentors will have various site visits to their fellows working sites, and will contribute assistance, and provide trainings, workshops, consultations to

their fellows to complete their follow on activities. African American members of the U.S. mentors delegation will also contribute to the Black History Month celebration in Hungary and Romania. WSOS/GLC Project Manager, country directors and alumni assist to the U.S. delegations.

*Web-based technology, social media, and public outreach efforts* will strengthen the Professional Fellows Program and lead to wider networking

and collaborative projects, and build a strong alumni network.

*This program is a collaboration between WSOS/GLC and its overseas partners:* Creating Effective Grassroots Alternatives Foundation (C.E.G.A.) in Bulgaria, Civil College Foundation (CCF) in Hungary, The Resource Center for Public Participation (CeRe) in Romania and Center for Community Organizing (CKO) in Slovakia, and many U.S. partner organizations.



***Balatonfured, Hungary, September 7, 2016 - The 2nd Alumni Reunion of the Professional Fellows Program with over 40 community organizers from Europe: alumni from Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia, plus country directors, and their U.S. Mentors and WSOS/GLC project leaders from United States of America.***





## **“Sustaining Civic Participation in Minority Communities”**

**Winter 2017 US Mentors Delegation visiting Bulgaria, Hungary,  
Romania and Slovakia, February 18 - March 12, 2017**



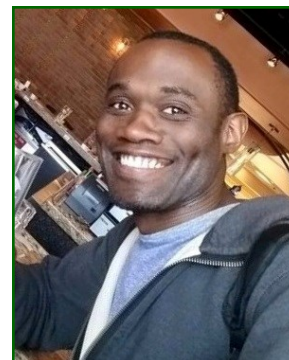
*Ronnie Harris*  
*IAM Campaign, Chicago*



*Jeffrey Bartow*  
*Southwest Organizing  
Project, Chicago*



*Anthony Shields*  
*Neighborhood Organizing  
for Change, Minneapolis*



*Mike Griffin*  
*Neighborhood Organizing  
for Change, Minneapolis*



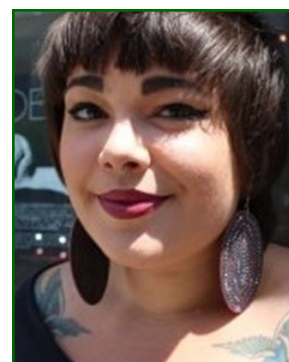
*Blanca Surgeon*  
*Rural Community  
Assistance Corp., Santa Fe*



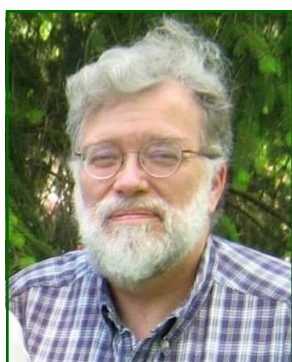
*Brock Grosso*  
*Jane Addams Senior  
Caucus, Chicago*



*Trinity C. Dix*  
*United Valley Interfaith  
Project, Meriden*



*Emily R. Terrana*  
*People United for Sustain  
Housing, Buffalo*



*Michael Tierney*  
*Step by Step, Charleston*



*Erik W. Shelley*  
*Michigan United, Detroit*



*Candace Coleman*  
*Access Living, Chicago*



*Thomas J. Wilson*  
*Access Living, Chicago*



*Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of the Educational and Cultural  
Affairs, Office of Citizen Exchanges, Professional Fellows Division*

**Candace Coleman**  
**Community Development**  
**Organizer-Youth**  
**Chicago, IL**  
 E-mail: [Candyn28@gmail.com](mailto:Candyn28@gmail.com)



Candace Coleman, a Black disabled woman is a Youth Organizer with 13 years' of experience. She currently works as the Community Development Organizer for young people with disabilities at Access Living, a local disability rights organization in Chicago. Previously, Ms. Coleman worked as a Program Coordinator for before and after-school programs at Fulton Elementary School. In these roles, she has supported young people in the fields of mentoring, leadership development, violence prevention, academic support, and advocacy.

Ms. Coleman current work includes organizing with Access Living's youth advocacy group, Advanced Youth Leadership Power (AYLP), focuses on anti-bullying, the school to prison

pipeline, restorative justice, police brutality, deinstitutionalization, and disability justice. Ms. Coleman is the Chicago disability community's go to MC and has hosted various events including the 2014 and 2015 Disability Pride Parade. At the 2016's parade, she received the Van Heck award for her leadership in the community. She also serves as a board member for Hip Hop Detoxx and Youth Move Illinois.

Ms. Coleman is a person who believes that access for people with disabilities should be readily available everywhere. She enjoys learning about

Social Justice issues in the United States and in areas that include juvenile justice, education, and youth work. She is interested in learning more about different cultures and disability identities because she would like to present about ethnic and disability cultural issues.

Ms. Coleman was working closely with Peter Galgoczi, fall 2016 fellow from Hungary as his mentor, but she also had opportunities to work with two other fellows of the fall 2015 delegation: Anett Csordas from Hungary and Stoyan Pavlov from Bulgaria. Ms. Coleman will contribute to the Black History Month presentations in Europe.

Ms. Coleman will be escorted by Thomas Wilson, her colleague from Access Living, who will provide her assistance, and who was also the host for Peter Galgoczi from Hungary. Ms. Coleman will visit Hungary and Bulgaria between February 18-March 5, 2017.

[www.accessliving.org/](http://www.accessliving.org/)

**Access Living Chicago (AL)** is a change agent committed to fostering an inclusive society that enables Chicagoans with disabilities to live fully-engaged and self-directed lives. Established in 1980, AL is nationally recognized as a leading force in the disability advocacy community.

AL challenges stereotypes, protects civil rights and champions social reform. AL staff and volunteers combine knowledge and personal experience to deliver programs and services that equip people with disabilities to advocate for themselves. AL is at the forefront of the

disability rights movement, removing barriers so people with disabilities can live the future they envision.

AL offers a diverse and dynamic array of service, advocacy and legal programs. A majority of the individuals who staff these programs are people with disabilities. AL staff provides practical, direct support and services to thousands of Chicagoans with disabilities each year, and their crucial work also reaches a broader national constituency through our aggressive advocacy and public policy efforts. AL Programs offer these core services: - Information and Referral, an information about any disability-related subject, and referral to other

resources when needed; - Advocacy that include ongoing direct, nonviolent action in support of disability rights, at the individual, community and national level; - Independent Living Skills, the real-life training on practical know-how for living independently, from budgeting to traveling, from personal assistant management to job seeking; - Peer Counseling on the real problem-solving skills and support for all kinds of issues with other people with disabilities.

AL's immediate goals underscore the commitment to ensure that people with disabilities are able to equally and fully take part in all aspects of community life.



**OUR SINCERE THANK YOU TO OUR PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS  
 ALUMNI IN BULGARIA, HUNGARY, ROMANIA AND SLOVAKIA  
 FOR WELCOMING U.S. MENTORS, FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY AND  
 SUPPORT DURING THE EUROPEAN TRIP AROUND THE REGION!**



## Thomas James Wilson

Community Development

Organizer-Health Care

Chicago, IL

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Thomas James Wilson is employed at Access Living since 1990. Three years later he took over the home services program and later added the deinstitutionalization program and five years ago he became a health policy analyst and health care organizer. From year of his employment to the end of 2016 Mr. Wilson did home visits to assess people with disabilities for services. In 1993 he was fortunate to travel with Jim Charlton, the author of *"Nothing About Us Without Us: Disability, Oppression and Empowerment"* to South Africa, Kenya, India, Thailand and Indonesia to interview disability activists.

Previously, Mr. Wilson served in the Peace Corps in Belize from 1985 to 1988. He spent a year traveling in Latin America from 1988 to 1989. He has seen how disability rights have developed in various other countries

due to broader social justice movements, through international connections or through charismatic leadership of disabled individuals and he will look for parallels or differences.

Mr. Wilson has a BA in History graduating from the Iowa State University in 1974 and his MA in Geography graduating from the University of Iowa in 1985. He taught ESL and GED classes for the Chicago City Colleges from 1989 to 1992.

Having hosted Hungarian Alumnus Peter Galgoczi in his home during the fall 2016 fellowship program, Mr. Wilson has become more interested in

how the historic development of Hungary has impacted the lives of people with disabilities. Peter Galgoczi has given him a chance to start to explore this Hungarian world and he hopes to learn more and to share his experience working for equal access to health care and the expansion of community living options for people with disabilities. Mr. Wilson hopes to learn more about the level of social services available, the extent of social integration experienced by people with disabilities, the relationship of non-governmental organizations to government structures and policies and the importance of the intersection of the disability rights movement with other social justice movements.

During this trip Mr. Wilson will escort and assist to his colleague Candace Coleman, but he will also contribute his own experience of working with people with disabilities for 26 years.

Mr. Wilson will visit Hungary and Bulgaria between February 18-March 5, 2017.



Chicago, Illinois, October 9, 2016 - Fall 2016 Professional Fellows delegation with their US Mentors (Brock Grosso, Ronnie Harris, Tom Wilson, Candace Coleman and Jaquie Algee) at a multicultural event "Cultural Night in Chicago".

## Ronnie Harris

Executive Director

Chicago, IL

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Ronnie Harris is the founding member of “PaulsJourney”, a community development initiative. The major goal is that seeks to provide progressive alternatives of hope for those marginalized by historical, socio-economical constructs by creating innovative avenues of development through alliances, initiatives, and partnerships. Based in Chicago, Mr. Harris is an experienced speaker, counselor, and social entrepreneur. He has an uncanny knack for connecting people, places and things.

Mr. Harris work with “PaulsJourney” includes several innovative projects. At the present he is founding director of the “I AM CAMPAIGN” project, which focuses on combating modern day slavery. This project is a partnership with various U.S. organizations, both

governmental and non-governmental.

Mr. Harris is presently studying at University of Aberdeen; exploring the intersections between faith, race, and culture in urban cities around the world. He has extensive travel experience and this will be a second time when he will be included in the U.S. mentors delegation to Europe.

Mr. Harris was involved as US mentor in the Spring 2015 Professional Fellows Program (PFP) for the first time as he worked with Szilvia Suri, alumna from Hungary. During the Fall 2015 PFP, he hosted Alexandrina

Dinga from Romania and Agnes Molnar from Hungary, who spent their internships with “Go Bronzeville” and learned from many partner organizations and community leaders who were connected to their activities. In 2016 Mr. Harris was involved as US mentor again as he worked with Romanian fellows Diana Grecu (spring 2016 PFP), and Aurora Martin (fall 2016 PFP).

As an African American Mr. Harris will contribute to Black History Month celebration in Romania during his visit and will work closely with his alumni as they implement their follow on activities. While Diana Grecu is focusing on social entrepreneurship development and youth organizing, Aurora Martin is focusing on human trafficking related organizing in Bucharest. Mr. Harris’ expertise in both of these areas will be very useful for them, and he is providing regular mentoring to his fellows and will contribute to make further progress in Romania.

<http://www.iamcampaign.com/>

“I AM Campaign” is a trans-local campaign represented by a group of modern-day abolitionist seeking to form partnerships with local communities, partner organizations, and global stakeholders around the world that fight to re-abolish modern day slavery and its effects. Their primary goals are focusing on three A: to raise *Awareness* to the awful reality of Modern-Day Slavery, in all of its forms; to establishing long-term partnerships in *Advocacy*, and to invest resources towards the *Aftercare*.

Today slavery exists in many forms: human trafficking, bonded labor, forced labor, or sex trafficking, and is present worldwide. It exists within the United States in major urban areas, small cities and towns. Nearly three out of every four slaves are women, and half are children. Slavery in the 21st Century is a multi-billion dollar global industry on a par with drug trafficking and illicit arms sales. Most nations have anti-human trafficking laws, but enforcement is erratic or non-existent. Public awareness of modern slavery is low, enabling traffickers to lure thousands of victims into forced labor situations.

The “I AM Campaign” based on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King: “*Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly...*” intends to raise awareness of contemporary slavery, and inspire people to become engaged modern-day abolitionists, and organize a global coalition convened to assure awareness, advocacy, and aftercare is materialized to help those vulnerable to and survivors of this global pandemic.



**SPECIAL THANK YOU**  
**TO THE U.S. MENTORS AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS**  
*for sharing their time and experience, for providing trainings,  
 workshops and consultations for our alumni and many other local  
 partners in communities in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia!*



## Erik William Shelley

Communications Coordinator

Detroit, MI

E-mail: [Erik@MIunited.org](mailto:Erik@MIunited.org)



For the past 3 years, Erik Shelley has done communications and organizing work with Michigan United. During that time, he has attended the National People's Action weeklong organizer training and taught at the SPIN Academy communications workshop. His goal is to make Michigan United the most effective community organization in the state in order to end racism and reduce economic inequality.

Mr. Shelley graduated from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor's Degree in Broadcasting. He has been a journalist at WAAM radio in Ann

Arbor, Michigan and taught audio production at Full Sail University and the College for Creative Studies. The last time he traveled abroad was 2009 when he went to Jamaica for his honeymoon. He once traveled through Europe with his family as a child.

Mr. Shelley is interested in learning more about social condition in Eastern

Europe. As US Mentor he worked with two fall 2016 fellows from Hungary: Livia Asmany and Lilla Matyas. He supervised their internship activities and learned how similar is his hometown of Detroit, Michigan to Miskolc the city in Hungary, Lilla Matyas hometown, which is also experiencing deindustrialization.

Mr. Shelley also learned that both Hungary and the US are also dealing with the challenges in immigration, refugee resettlement and a large, underserved minority population.

He is looking forward assisting to his fellows and other organizers to create effective communication strategies for their organizations and also teach organizers and community leaders on improving communication.

<http://www.miunited.org/>

**Michigan United (MU)** is a statewide organization of community members and institutions fighting for the dignity and potential of every person. MU is committed to a participatory democracy at every level, an economy that works for the many, and a society that dismantles racism while uplifting our common humanity. To ignite the power of the communities and shift the

balance of power, MU crew cultivates the leadership of those directly affected by injustice, and build popular institutions for the future.

In 2012, The Michigan Organizing Project (MOP) and Alliance for Immigrant Rights (AIR) merged to form a statewide organization of churches, labor, and community groups which will work to ensure that our economy works for the many, the civil rights are protected, and the democracy is

strong. Together, along with member institutions and individuals, MU seek to affirm the fundamental dignity of working families, shape of the political future, and achieve an economically and racially just society for the communities.

In March of 2013, after a yearlong merger of the organizations, a transitional board was established and a new name as picked to represent this new union. Together, we are MICHIGAN UNITED.

### THANK YOU TO OUR ALUMNI & EUROPEAN ADVISORS:

Emil Metodiev, Liliya Georgieva, Milena Nikolova, Yana Yancheva, Tsvetomir Nenov, Mate Varga, Pal Bence, Attila Galambos, Balazs Horvath-Kertesz, Boglarka Dombi, Lilla Matyas, Livia Asmany, Peter Galgoczi, Tamas Horn, Vlad Catuna, Cristina Tanase, Aurora Martin, Marius Tudor, Catalina Olteanu, Mihnea Florea, Diana Grecu, Veronika Strelcova, Maros Chmelik, Edit Bednarova, Sona Keresztesova, Kajo Zboril, Chuck Hirt and many others,

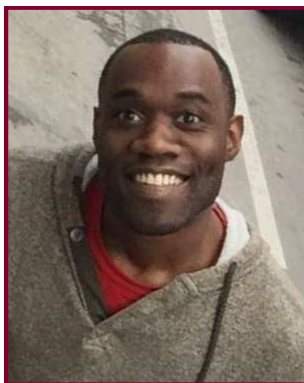
*for organizing the U.S. Mentors activities in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia for February-March 2017 U.S. mentors' delegation!*



**Michael Allen Griffin**  
**Field Director**  
**Minneapolis, MN**  
 E-mail: [mike@mnnoc.org](mailto:mike@mnnoc.org)

Michel Griffin is a Field Director for Neighborhoods Organizing for change (NOC), member led organization fighting for economic justice, voting rights and police accountability. He manages the program organizers and it is beneficial to him to learn about other methods of organizing around the world.

Mr. Griffin has been an organizer in Minneapolis for over 11 years. He started as an organizer for President Obama in 2008, which gave him extensive experience building ambitious engagement campaigns. Most recently, he served as the Director of campaigns with "FairVote



MN", an election reform campaign in Minnesota.

Mr. Griffin is a graduate from the University of Minnesota where he earned his Diploma in Political Science in 2010. He was the lead of the campus program for project "Minnesotans United for All Families".

Mr. Griffin was actively involved in fall 2015 Professional Fellows

Program (PFP) with supervising the internship for Peter Huray from Slovakia and Asen Mitkov from Bulgaria. As US mentor in the February 2016 delegation to Europe helped him to link connections between the Roma communities and the African American community from Bulgaria and Slovakia. He co-paid his expenses in February 2016 to visit their fellows in these countries.

During the fall 2016 PFP Mr. Griffin worked with two fellows Marius Tudor from Romania and Balazs Horvath from Hungary. He is looking forward assisting these fellows to implement their follow on activities and also learn more about these countries. As an African American Mr. Griffin is looking forward contributing to Black History Month presentations in Romania and Hungary.

**Anthony Shields**  
**Community Organizer**  
**Minneapolis, MN**  
 E-mail: [shields@mnnoc.org](mailto:shields@mnnoc.org)

Anthony Shields serves as Deputy Field Director at Neighborhoods Organizing for Change (NOC) for 1.5 years now, and has helped manage and run the Field Team, the heart and soul of any grassroots organization. With this experience, he has the ability to share and teach essential tactics to those wishing to organize their community for change.

Mr. Shields also served as President of "In the Mix", a student group focused on interracial relationships and the bi-racial experience from 2010 to 2012. For 4 years, Mr. Shields served on the Student Board for TRiO Student Support Services, a federally funded program to increase the matriculation and retention rates of low-income and students of color in college.

Mr. Shields is a graduate of the



University of Minnesota Twin Cities with a major in Youth Studies. During college, he was involved in leadership roles within racial equity and Black student groups. While fighting for social justice, Mr. Shields expresses himself through spoken word and graphic design. In 2013, he received the Multicultural Recognition Award from the College of Education and Human Development for his leadership on social issues. While studying abroad in Mexico and South Africa, Shields gained a sense of global responsibility with a local commitment.

Mr. Shields was actively involved in the implementation of two fall 2015 Professional Fellows internships at NOC for Peter Huray from Slovakia and Asen Mitkov from Bulgaria. He supervised the fellows and provided internships' mentoring at his organization. During the fall 2016 Professional Fellows Program (PFP) Mr. Shields worked closely with two fellows Marius Tudor from Romania and Balazs Horvath from Hungary. While in Europe, he would like to assist them implementing their follow on activities.

Mr. Shields traveled as US mentor on a previous exchange in February 2016 to work with his fellows from Bulgaria and Slovakia. This will be Mr. Shields' 2nd year of participating in PFP, and he will continue to invest his time and energy to build leadership and organizing capacity in the name of social justice. He will travel with his colleague Mike Griffin, but will co-pay for his expenses for the trip.



<http://www.mnnoc.org/>

**Neighborhoods Organizing for Change (NOC)** is a grassroots organization building power in under-resourced communities and communities of color across the Twin Cities. NOC is a member-led non-profit organization focused on the intersection of race, the economy and public policy. NOC has won numerous community led campaigns since it was founded in 2010.

NOC strives to work collectively to improve the lives of its members. NOC leverages people power to organize around issues like housing, education, jobs, civic engagement and racial justice. Together, NOC members fight for racial and economic justice.

NOC goal is in building powerful, active campaigns for better public transit, workers' rights, expanded police accountability and voting rights. NOC fought to keep North High school open,

helped Minneapolis public schools to divest from Wells Fargo, organized to defeat the 2012 Voter ID amendment, championed the 2013 Homeowner Bill of Rights.

Neighborhoods Organizing for Change become involved in the Professional Fellows Program in October 2015 for the first time for two Professional Fellows and during the fall of 2016 the second time with another two fellows.

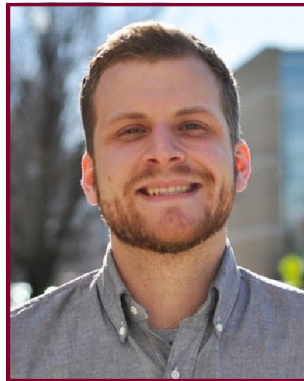
## Brock James Grosso

**Housing Organizer**

**Chicago, Illinois**

E-mail: [brock@seniorcaucus.org](mailto:brock@seniorcaucus.org)

Brock Grosso is Housing Justice Organizer at Jane Addams Senior Caucus, a multiracial, grassroots organization, since January 2016. As southwest Michigan native he organizes alongside seniors to fight for safe, affordable homes. He began his organizing work with people experience of homelessness in Detroit and has also organized people with disabilities in Chicago. Mr. Grosso hopes to connect with organizers in



Eastern Europe to understand how to make movements more global in scope. In the past, he has traveled to Cape Coast, Ghana to volunteer in the city's public aid office.

Mr. Grosso has a wide experience in

community organizing including on housing and working with seniors, he also worked with people with disabilities. This experience will be very useful as he will meet with past alumni and other organizers in Europe.

On fall 2016 Mr. Grosso was involved directly with Professional fellows Program for the first time. As US Mentor he worked closely with two fall 2016 fellows: Tamas Horn from Hungary and Sylvia Bakalova from Bulgaria.

Mr. Grosso will visit Hungary from February 19 through March 5, 2017. He looking forward to connect with his fellow there and also assist to other alumni as well. .

[www.seniorcaucus.org](http://www.seniorcaucus.org)

**Jane Addams Senior Caucus (JASC)** is a multiracial, grassroots organization led by concerned seniors in the Chicago metropolitan area. They cross neighborhood, racial, religious and socio-economic lines to find common ground upon which to act on.

Through leadership development, organizing and popular education, JASC seniors use the power of their collective voice to work for economic, social and

racial justice for all seniors and all communities. JASC has about 500 members from diverse background fighting for social justice.

JASC knows that seniors are valuable to the community and those seniors coming together can improve their lives and be active in civic life. The issues JASC is working on come from the concerns of the members. Presently JASC issues include the preservation and creation of affordable housing, improving in-home health care and

ensuring on-site social workers in senior buildings.

JASC is currently working on local organizing efforts in neighborhoods throughout Chicago to preserve and create affordable housing. JASC continues to organize seniors, families and others to win improvements in the Community Care Program.

JASC is focusing on organizing to strengthen and protect social safety net programs, such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and HUD programs.



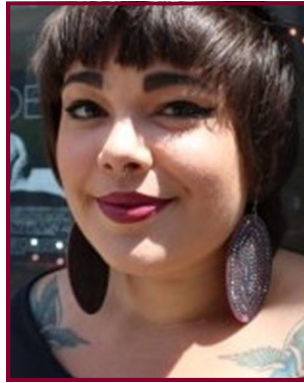
**OUR SINCERE THANK YOU TO ALL PARTNERS  
AT THE U.S. EMBASSIES IN EUROPE:  
BULGARIA, HUNGARY, ROMANIA AND SLOVAKIA!**

## Emily Rose Terrana

**Field Organizing Manager**

**Buffalo, NY**

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Emily Terrana is a Field Organizing Manager at the People United for Sustainable Housing (PUSH) in Buffalo, NY. She began her career while being in college, organizing women on campus and creating the "Young Feminists of Buffalo". She went on to be an organizer with the "American Civil Liberties Union of New York" for five years before transitioning into her current role as Field Organizing Manager with PUSH Buffalo. Mss. Terrana has trained new organizers, students, school staff and administrators on several issues but is specialized in the field of gender justice and feminist theory. Her goals include continuing her career in organizing by focusing on leadership development through political education and justice training, and to organize with sex workers to develop a cooperatively run and community sustained harm reduction center that transfers underground economic skills

into community assets while transforming our culture's perception and treatment of workers.

Mss. Terrana holds a Degree in Women, Gender and Diversity Studies from the Buffalo State College and is a proud graduate of City Honors High School. She has traveled to Cuenca, Ecuador, and the Galapagos Islands as a teenager. Her writing has been published online and in "Selves, Symbols and Sexualities: An Interactions Anthology". She is a native Buffalonian organizer and mother of two children.

Mss. Terrana was chosen to be US mentor due to her strong skills, background in community and grass-top organizing, training, and feminist

practice. She has had the opportunity to work on local, state wide and federal social justice and civil rights campaigns and has been successful in building a base that engages in a wide range of tactics for success. Mss. Terrana's theory of change is rooted in the necessity of strategic practice and changing worldview while working on our long-term vision of radical change. Emily will bring an intersectional analysis and practice to the training program and is eager to learn from organizers from around the globe.

During Fall 2016 Professional Fellows Program (PFP), PUSH Buffalo hosted Bulgarian alumna Yana Yancheva, who worked with several partners at the organizations including Mss. Terrana. Yana Yancheva is planning a series of workshops in Bulgaria and she counted on her US mentor's help with the training. Ms. Terrana is looking forward assisting in training contributing her experience and organizing skills, and also learn more about Bulgaria.

<http://pushbuffalo.org/>

**People United for Sustainable Housing (PUSH Buffalo)** is a local membership-based community organization fighting to make affordable housing a reality on Buffalo's West Side. PUSH was founded by Aaron Bartley and Eric Walker in 2005. PUSH Buffalo was established to create strong neighborhoods with quality affordable housing, decrease the rate of housing abandonment by reclaiming empty houses from neglectful public and private owners and redeveloping them for occupancy by low-income residents, and to develop neighborhood leaders capable of gaining community control over the development process and planning for the future of the neighborhood.

Community organizing is the lifeblood of PUSH Buffalo. Since 2005, PUSH had called on neighborhood residents and allies to participate in half a dozen direct-action and legislative campaigns that have brought new resources to Buffalo growing West Side. These campaigns target all levels of government, including large-scale corporations, like big banks, and local utility companies.

The mission is to mobilize residents to create strong neighborhoods with quality, affordable housing, expand local hiring opportunities and to advance economic justice in Buffalo. The future vision for all PUSH's members is to become the community organizers who make affordable housing a reality in Buffalo. They will work with partners and funders to create a healthy, just and

strong city that includes community control of resources, living wage jobs and access to quality education, healthcare and transportation.

PUSH Buffalo value the following organizational features: (1) member involvement based on member participation and consideration of alternatives; (2) inclusiveness by encouraging a diversity of opinions; (3) ownership based on opportunities to create and control community resources; (4) results oriented plans which have outlined a series of measurable goals and outcomes that will ultimately lead to results; (5) relevant responding to changing political and social climates by evaluating trends and (6) justice that gives real power to real people.



**Blanca Surgeon**  
**Rural Development Specialist**  
**Santa Fe, NM**  
E-mail: [bsurgeon@rcac.org](mailto:bsurgeon@rcac.org)



Blanca Surgeon joined the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) as a trainer, assistance provider, facilitator and community coach serving rural communities, farm workers mainly immigrants in the U.S. Mexico Border and Native Americans nations. During her tenure at RCAC, Ms. Surgeon has crafted a long and accomplished career working in various roles in communities to promote and implement local leadership development, board and system capacity building, regional collaboration, plus community and economic development. She is a team player with extraordinary knowledge, passion, and systems thinking. She currently serves on the national Environmental Finance Advisory Board.

Ms. Surgeon is a graduate of the University of New Mexico from the School of Public Administration with a

Master's Degree in Water Resources Administration and Education. She regularly trains community-based groups. She also does speaking engagements at state and national conferences in the United States and Latin America on subjects related to economic and community development primarily in small communities. She is fully bilingual English and Spanish.

Through hands on experience Ms. Surgeon has learned that local leadership and community participation is the key to doing community development and ultimately to building rural economies. Local people solve local problems. Organizations and facilitators enable

solutions. The capacity of building model is to help community design solutions. This exchange program adds to the U.S. based experience a robust knowledge of tried on projects, businesses experiences and models on planning and organizing.

Ms. Surgeon will exchange information on how to develop a positive local environment for entrepreneurs, ways to implement economic development and methods to maintain project support. The outcome she seeks from this experience includes increased knowledge of innovative local entrepreneurship, catalytic projects that RCAC can potentially do in the U.S. to help local and rural communities economic development.

During the fall 2016 PFP Ms. Surgeon was the US Mentor for two professional fellows: Edita Bednarova from Slovakia and Boglarka Dombi from Hungary. She was also their host family during the internship for 4 weeks. Ms. Surgeon established a close relationship with both of her fellows and looking forward working with them as they implement their follow on activities in Europe.

<http://www.rcac.org/>

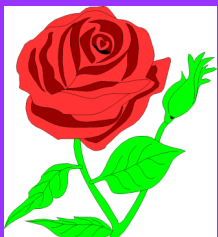
**Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)** is nonprofit community organization founded in 1978 and headquartered in West Sacramento, California. RCAC provides training, technical and financial resources and advocacy so rural communities can achieve their goals and visions. RCAC's employees serve rural communities in 13 western states

(Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and more) and the Pacific islands.

RCAC's various services include environmental infrastructure, affordable housing development, economic and leadership development and community development finance and are available to communities with populations of fewer than 50,000, other nonprofit groups, tribal organizations, farm workers, and

other specific populations.

RCAC expands the knowledge base of the rural public through education and training and envisions is vibrant, healthy and enduring rural communities in every state throughout the West. For more than 35 years dedicated staff and active board of RCAC, coupled with the key values of leadership, collaboration, commitment, quality and integrity, have helped effect positive change in rural communities across the West.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO**  
**David Gustafson, our past Program Officer, and to Linnea Allison,**  
**our current Program Officer at the U.S. Department of State**  
**and their colleagues at the Professional Fellows Division!**

**Trinity Chantelle Dix**

Executive Director

Meriden, NH &amp; VT

E-mail: [trinity.uvip@gmail.com](mailto:trinity.uvip@gmail.com)

Trinity Dix serves as Executive Director at United Valley Interfaith Project (UVIP) since August 2016. She joined UVIP in 2015 to focus on gathering stories about people living and working in Claremont. A Claremont resident herself, Ms. Dix spends her time connecting with individuals to better understand the community, identify areas of concern, and champion programs that support the well-being of its residents. She is responsible for all of UVIP's campaigns, staff and funding.

Ms. Dix is also the Coordinator for Healthy Vibrant Claremont, a community lead group of Claremont residents looking to promote health, wellness and vitality of the city. In addition to organizing, she is an Event Planner for Advancement at Dartmouth College, where she worked to keep alumni, family and friends engaged while promoting the work of faculty, students and alumni. She serves on the

Board for Community Engagement Research through SYNERGY at Dartmouth, is a coordinator for Healthy Vibrant Claremont, a group of informal leaders looking to promote and enhance life in Claremont, the coordinator for the Claremont Neighborhood Revitalization Project through Habitat for Humanity and a team member on the Nellie Mae Community Engagement Grant through the Claremont School District.

Formally, Ms. Dix was an assistant director at Dartmouth College, focusing on high-end donor events locally and across the United States. She graduated with her Master's Degree in Adult Education from the

coeducational private Liberal Arts Elmira College.

During her undergraduate work at Elmira, Ms. Dix traveled with the program "Semester at Sea" to the Bahamas, Brazil, China, Cuba, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, South Africa, Vietnam.

Ms. Dix was chosen to be a finalist to travel to Europe as a US mentor given the work and relationships she has built over the past year while working for UVIP.

During the fall 2016 Professional Fellows Program, UVIP hosted two fellows: Sona Keresztesova from Slovakia and Liliya Georgieva from Bulgaria. Ms. Dix has been largely responsible for scheduling and arranging their time in New Hampshire, and she was working with them to identify new ideas that they can implement after their return, and worked closely with Leah Torrey (past executive director of UVIP) to plan and implement activities for these fellows. Ms. Dix looking forward to the trip, to be able to contribute her experience and organizing skills, and assist with trainings.

[www.unitedvalleyinterfaith.org](http://www.unitedvalleyinterfaith.org)

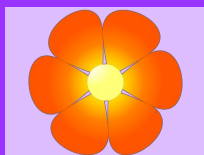
**The United Valley Interfaith Project (UVIP)** is a federation of congregations, supporting faith organizations and also community organizations that have come together to work for the common good of the central Connecticut River Valley region of New Hampshire and Vermont. UVIP is a community organizing group based on a systematic approach to addressing the root causes of social problems and improving the lives of all in their

communities. UVIP aims to build a stronger region by deepening ties between their rural communities, developing the leadership skills of their members and tackling systemic issues which impede justice and a good quality of life for all residents.

UVIP emerged from several congregations seeking to understand the extent of poverty and injustice in the region, and their frustration in tackling poverty and justice issues by themselves. From a loosely-knit group of congregations in 2003 to a formal organization in 2008, UVIP has become

a powerful force for collective action to enhance social justice in the region. UVIP is currently focusing on eradicating 300% interest rate car-title loans from New Hampshire, organizing alternative lending programs for the underpriced and working-poor, and fighting for better resources for rural aging seniors.

As UVIP grows, the issues will change. Over time, new issues will arise from the process of building relationships and listening to one another's hopes and dreams for all in the region.



**THANK YOU TO OUR COUNTRY DIRECTORS IN EUROPE:  
Emil Metodiev, Mate Varga, Vlad Catuna, Veronika Strelcova!**



**Michael Tierney**  
**Executive Director**  
**Charleston, West Virginia**  
E-mail:  
[familyworkerfarm@yahoo.com](mailto:familyworkerfarm@yahoo.com)



Michael Tierney is the founding director of Step by Step, a regional community leadership and education nonprofit in southern West Virginia that has provided programs since 1988. In 2002, the West Virginia Dreamers framework which he developed as part of Kellogg International Leadership Program (KILP) fellowship, was recognized as a model for community development by the PEW Partnerships' Wanted: Solutions for America initiative. The Big Ugly Community Center, that Mr. Tierney helped develop one mile from his home on Big Ugly Creek in the heart of the West Virginia coalfields, was named volunteer organization of the year by the Governor's Service Awards in 2015, also the Center's 20th Anniversary.

Mr. Tierney graduated with Summa Cum Laude from Harvard University in 1981 with an independent major

focusing on a rural community development. He received a Master's Degree in History from the Brandeis University in 1995. His international work being part of faith based delegations in India, Israel and Palestine and Northern Ireland and has included exchanges and consulting in Nicaragua, South Africa, Brazil, and a previous trips to Slovakia and Hungary in 2013, and to Slovakia and Romania in February 2016 on the Professional Fellows Program.

Mr. Tierney has over 40 years of youth organizing experience (stemming from his own work as a participant in a public alternative high school) through work on these issues in

West Virginia, inner city Boston, Aberdeen, Scotland, and Cali, Colombia. He has also created nonprofit projects for over 39 years including founding the Rural Education Apprenticeship Program (REAP) at Harvard University, the Mosaic program at South Boston High School, and, since 1988, Step by Step Inc.

Mr. Tierney brings a wide range of common interests with the Slovak fellow he hosted, being useful in workshops and coalition building in Europe. Mr. Tierney hosted previously several Professional Fellows from Slovakia and he is keeping the connections with them.

During the fall 2016 PF Program Mr. Tierney hosted Milena Nikolova from Bulgaria and Cristina Tanase from Romania. He not only was their mentor but also he was their host family as well. He is looking forward catching up with his fellows during his travel to Romania and Bulgaria, to help his fellows implementing their follow on projects.

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[www.stepbystepwv.org/](http://www.stepbystepwv.org/)

**Step by Step works with some of West Virginia's** most economically challenged and geographically, socially and politically isolated communities to create systems to support their children from early childhood through the transition to independent adulthood.

A typical West Virginia Dreamers site includes K-8 after school and summer enrichment programs, parent and youth leadership efforts, collaborations with kindred early childhood and jobs training programs, and a "Dream Team" of local stakeholders committed to sustaining consistent and ongoing support for children and families.

Current sites include the Big Ugly Community Center, which Step by Step helped found in 1995, the inner city

Charleston housing project, South Park, and the coalfields communities of Harts, Omar and Man/Bufalo Creek.

In keeping with its youth advocacy roots, the organization has also supported the first statewide anti bullying effort, Bully Free WV since 2008. The West Virginia Dreamers VISTA Collaborative places 20 National Service members with partner nonprofits to support dropout prevention, health care access, and community development efforts, including facilitating the WV Community Center Support Network.

Step by Step has also served as the incubator for other nonprofit and community education programs including a county family resource network, an early childhood center, a statewide family leadership initiative, and a regional family literacy program It

is currently the fiscal sponsor for the Banska Bystrica/Charleston, WV Sister City Alliance.

Its numerous arts and culture initiatives include story anthologies on sexual abuse, growing up in foster care, and growing up with a disability, a 200 page anthology of oral histories, songs and quilt blocks published as Patchwork Dreams in 2008, the creative reuse and recycling visual arts program Re Art, and Rock Camp 4 Girls Appalachia. It's original musical theater production, Bridge of Dreams, grew from Step by Step's designation as the sole WV site for the Artists and Communities: America Creates for the Millennium initiative. The organization's youth leadership programs have been recognized by the WV Martin Luther King Holiday Commission and featured on WV Public Radio.

## Jeffrey West Bartow

### Executive Director and Lead Organizer

Chicago, IL

E-mail: [jbartow@swopchicago.org](mailto:jbartow@swopchicago.org)

Jeff Bartow has been organizing in the Chicago area for the past 23 years. For the past 14 years he has been the Executive Director of the Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP), a broad based community organization building power for families on Chicago's southwest side.

Mr. Bartow is the past president of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR), and is a former board member of Donde Están Los Niños, an organization formed in Guatemala to learn the fate of children disappeared during that country's civil war. He has traveled there a number of times.

With his 23 years of organizing experience Mr. Bartow will be able to contribute to the training workshops and consulting needs especially in Hungary, which made a great progress in hiring organizers across the country and they need more help to manage this development successfully. He has a B.A. in Philosophy from the Texas Christian University.



During Spring 2016 Professional Fellowship Program Mr. Bartow was the US mentor of two fellows: Attila Galambos from Hungary, and Tsvetomir Nenov from Bulgaria. Both of them are active in follow on activities and Mr. Bartow is looking forward working with them to contribute his knowledge and also learn about the community organizing activities and issues facing the minority population in these countries.



**August 31, 2016, Chicago, Illinois - Jeff Bartow (in the middle) and his colleagues from SWOP joined the progressive movement to demand an investigation of ICE practices in Chicago.**

<http://swopchicago.org/>

Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) formed in 1996 is a broad-based organization of 34 Christian, Muslim and Jewish faith institutions, public and private schools, and other institutions in Southwest Chicago. SWOP is known for its efforts to end predatory lending and foreclosures, reduce violence, win rights and protect the civil liberties of immigrants, and improve achievement in public schools through parent, student and school staff engagement.

The SWOP mission is that this broad-based organization enables families to exercise common values, determine their own future and connect with each other

to improve life in their neighborhoods. To this end, leaders of SWOP have dedicated themselves to building relationships across racial, ethnic, generational and faith differences and to bringing the common concerns of their institutions into the public life of the community as they develop the capacity to act collectively and "stand for the whole."

SWOP organizes predominately in five Chicago community areas: Chicago Lawn, Gage Park, West Elsdon, West Lawn, and Ashburn. In total, SWOP neighborhoods are 62% Latino, 27% African American and 10% White. As a broad-based organization committed to leadership development and collective action for the common good, SWOP

members act to build deeper public relationships within and among the churches, mosques, schools, and other institutions in the neighborhoods they serve. Through this process, SWOP staff and primary leaders continually strive to identify and strengthen new leadership for public life.

SWOP was the 2013 winner of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions. This is the non-profit equivalent to the MacArthur Foundations' Genius Award for individuals. SWOP won the Creative and Effective Institutions award for its anti-foreclosure work and for the quality of the community organizing carried about by the organization.



# ITINERARY \*

## HUNGARY 2017: February 19 - March 5

**US Mentors:** Brock Grosso, Candace Coleman, Thomas Wilson, Erik Shelley

Jeffrey Bartow (Feb 19-26), Blanca Surgeon (Feb 23-28), Mike Griffin and Anthony Shields (Feb 26-March 05).

### Sunday, February 19

#### Travel day - Budapest

for Erik Shelley:

**12:05PM:** Arrival to the Liszt Ferenc Airport; travel to accommodation;

for Jeffrey Bartow, Brock Grosso, Candace Coleman & Thomas Wilson:

**3:35PM:** Arrival to the Liszt Ferenc Airport; travel to accommodation;

**6:00PM:** Orientation and dinner with Mate Varga and alumni Attila Galambos, Szilvia Suri, Tamas Horn, Annamaria Kovacs, Peter Galgoczi, Anett Csordas, Lilla Matyas and Livia Asmany;

### Monday, February 20

#### Budapest

for Jeffrey Bartow, Brock Grosso, Erik Shelley, Candace Coleman & Thomas Wilson:

**Morning:** Cultural program - sightseeing around Pest side: Basilica, Danube Corso, Parliament, and Synagogue;

**Noon:** Lunch at a local restaurant

for Jeffrey Bartow:

**Afternoon:** Activities with Attila Galambos;

**4:00PM:** Visit Budapest School (BPS);

**6:00-8:00PM:** Workshop at BPS; volunteers and employees to be organized;

for Brock Grosso & Erik Shelley:

**Afternoon:** Activities with Tamas Horn, and Livia Asmany;

**Evening:** Dinner at Livia Asmany place;

for Candace Coleman, Thomas Wilson:

**Afternoon:** Activities with Peter Galgoczi.

### Tuesday, February 21

#### Budapest

for Jeffrey Bartow & Erik Shelley:

**Morning:** visit Ligetvedok camp; Meeting with Kozunk van Imashoz group;

**Afternoon:** (Optional) Join workshop by Thomas Wilson, Candace Coleman & Brock Grosso;

for Brock Grosso, Candace Coleman & Thomas Wilson:

**10:00AM-2:00PM:** Workshop at Lepjunk, Hogy Lephessenek Association organized by Anett Csordas

**Topics:** Youth advocacy by Candace Coleman;

**Sessions:** - Self problem; - Interest to community problem; - By Tom Wilson & Brock Grosso

### Wednesday, February 22

#### Budapest / Debrecen

for Jeffrey Bartow & Erik Shelley:

**Morning:** Meeting with Nekem Nem Mindegy group in Budapest; Visit to Aurora with the organizers of the house;

for Candace Coleman, Thomas Wilson:

**10AM-2:00PM:** Workshop at Lepjunk, Hogy Lephessenek Association continues, organized by Anett Csordas

**3:00PM:** Attend "Organize Wednesday" - Community Organizing workshop for organizers;

**Discussion topics:** - Communication in organizing processes by Erik Shelley  
- Grassroots fundraising-Jeff Bartow & others

**Evening:** JazyNoise performance at Aurora;

for Brock Grosso:

**Afternoon:** Travel to Debrecen with Annamaria Kovacs; Participate in workshop with Roma university students from Hajduhadhaz at the Debrecen University;

**Evening:** program with Debrecen organizer groups: SoSo, Cívis Colors and Nativ;

### Thursday, February 23

#### Budapest / Szeged/Miskolc/Debrecen

for Blanca Surgeon

**11:15AM:** Arrival to the Liszt Ferenc Airport; Pick-up by Boglarka Dombi;

**Afternoon:** Travel to Szeged with Boglarka Dombi; check-in the hotel,

**Evening:** Dinner and time for rest;

for Jeffrey Bartow in Budapest:

Whole day - Individual consultations with community organizers in Budapest: - CCF, MSZEH, Romai, etc;

for Erik Shelley in Miskolc:

**8:30-10:30AM:** Travel to Miskolc (IC) with Lilla Matyas & Livia Asmany; Check-in to hotel for 1 night;

**12:00Noon:** Visit Dialog Association (DA); meeting with DA staff;

**Discussion topics:** community houses, community places, social enterprises, community cafe, community processes;

**2:00PM:** Meeting with the community organizer in Miskolc, one-to-one interviews;

**5:00PM:** Visit the Civil Radio Miskolc (CIRMI);

**7:00PM:** Joint dinner with Tamas Szenttamasi; Sightseeing, etc;

for Brock Grosso in Debrecen:

**Morning:** After breakfast travel to Hajduhadhaz; Sightseeing; Workshop for local youth;

**Afternoon:** Return to Debrecen;

**Evening:** program with Debrecen organizer groups: SoSo, Cívis Colors and Nativ;

for Candace Coleman & Thomas Wilson: Consultation and planning in Budapest with Peter Galgoczi;

### Friday, February 24

#### Budapest / Szeged / Miskolc

for Blanca Surgeon

**11:00AM:** Travel to Hodmezovasarhely; Visit the Youth Center;

**Afternoon:** Sightseeing, lunch on the road in Hodmezovasarhely;

**Evening:** Return to Szeged;

for Jeffrey Bartow, Candace Coleman & Thomas Wilson in Budapest:

**Morning:** Site visits;

for Brock Grosso:

Return from Debrecen to Budapest; Check-in to hotel & accommodation;

**11:00AM:** Discussion with participatory theatre experts in Budapest;

## ITINERARY \*

for Jeffrey Bartow, Brock Grosso, Candace Coleman & Thomas Wilson:

**2:00-7:00PM:** Basic training on community organizing - Recruitment Workshop in Budapest;

*Discussion topics:* - What is organizing?

- Why to organize?

- Power of CO?

- Problems and issues;

- One-to-One talk;

- Examples of CO campaigns in the U.S.;

for Erik Shelley:

**Morning:** Dialog Association meeting in Miskolc continues;

**Noon:** Black History Month presentation at the University of Miskolc or (Optional) visit PeRe (In Da House) with Tamas Szenttamasi;

**6:30PM:** Departure from Miskolc;

**8:30PM:** Arriving to Budapest, check-in to hotel & accommodation;

### Saturday, February 25

#### Szeged/Budapest/Tiszabura/Pecs

for Blanca Surgeon & Edita Bednarova:

**Morning:** Meeting Gabor Daniel Nagy, Dr. and Andrea Tajti;

Consultation and planning with Boglarka Dombi in Szeged.

for Jeffrey Bartow in Budapest :

Activities in Budapest organized by local alumni; (Optional to travel to Tiszabura with Brock and Erik) Join Trinity Dix;

for Brock Grosso & Erik Shelley:

**Morning:** Adomanytaxi trip to Tiszabura, a village in Jasz-Nagykunszolnok County, with Tamas Horn, Livia Asmany and Lilla Matyas, to visit Roma community and distribute clothes;

for Candace Coleman, Thomas Wilson:

**10:00AM:** Travel to Pécs with Peter Galgoczi; Visit Local community organizing initiatives arranged by Peter Petak;

**Evening:** Dinner and other activities organized by local alumni in Pécs;

### Sunday, February 26

#### Szeged/Budapest/Pecs

for Blanca Surgeon in Szeged:

Orientation on local economy of Szeged - visiting local businesses and market places;

Meeting with the local government of Szeged and Hodmezovasarhely;

for Jeffrey Bartow:

Departure from Budapest to Sofia, Bulgaria;

for Brock Grosso & Erik Shelley:

**Morning:** Visit to Szimpla Farmers Market in Budapest; meeting local organizers;

Visit Kozoslabos Charity cooking, initiative for Hungarian NGOs;

**1:00PM:** Lunch at a local restaurant

**Afternoon:** Visit the Flea Market – PECSA;

for Candace Coleman, Thomas Wilson:

Visits to local community organizing initiatives in Pecs;

for Mike Griffin & Anthony Shields:

**Afternoon:** Arrival to Budapest from Romania; Check-in to the hotel & accommodation; Orientation with Mate Varga and Balazs Horvath and joint dinner in Budapest;

### Monday, February 27

#### Szeged/Budapest /Pecs/Veszprem

for Blanca Surgeon in Szeged:

**Morning:** One-to-One training in Szeged; Sharing knowledge about economic development and political experiences; Evaluation on how to move forward, developing next steps, etc;

**Afternoon:** Visit Kiskore Hydropower;

**Evening:** Joint dinner, time to rest;

for Brock Grosso & Erik Shelley:

**10:00AM:** Visit Momentum Movement, meeting the organizers of NOLimpia campaign;

**12:00Noon:** visit the Jewish district in Budapest;

**Afternoon:** Jewish walking tour with Tamas Horn; Visit to Israeli Kulturális Intezet;

for Candace Coleman, Thomas Wilson:

Visits to local community organizing initiatives in Pecs continues;

**Afternoon:** Travel back to Budapest, check-in to hotel & accommodation;

for Mike Griffin, Anthony Shields:

**Morning:** Travel to Veszprem City;

**Black History Month** presentation for students in Veszprem City organized by the American Corner of Veszprem & the

US Embassy in Budapest;

**Evening:** Return to Budapest;

### Tuesday, February 28

#### Budapest/Szeged

for Blanca Surgeon:

**Morning:** Return to Budapest; Sightseeing; Lunch on the road.

**Afternoon:** Departure from Budapest to Cigel, Slovakia;

for Brock Grosso, Erik Shelley, Candace Coleman & Thomas Wilson:

**Morning:** Site visits or (Optional) Join to the BHM program;

for Mike Griffin, Anthony Shields:

**Morning:** **Black History Month** presentation for Budapest School students organized the American Corner and the US Embassy in Budapest;

**Afternoon:** activities organized by local alumni;

for Brock Grosso, Erik Shelley, Mike Griffin, Anthony Shields, Thomas Wilson & Candace Coleman:

**6:00PM:** Participate in Living Memorial (Eleven Emlekmű) discussion;

### Wednesday, March 1

#### Budapest/Szentendre

**Morning:** Site visits;

for Brock Grosso & Erik Shelley:

**2:00PM:** UCCU walking tour in 8th District;

Visiting the Hungarian Anti-Poverty Network and the Workfare Movement;

for Candace Coleman, Thomas Wilson:

Attend Rehab Critical Mass Programs in Budapest;

for Mike Griffin, Anthony Shields:

**2:00PM:** Trip to Szentendre, a riverside town in Pest County;

**3:00PM:** Meeting local organizers;

**5:00PM:** Dinner in Szentendre with local alumni;

**6:00PM:** One-to-One training;

**Evening:** Return to Budapest;

### Thursday, March 2

#### Budapest

for Brock Grosso & Erik Shelley:

**Morning:** site visits in Budapest

**6:00PM:** Participating in Living Memorial (Eleven Emlekmű) discussion;



## ITINERARY \*

for Candace Coleman, Thomas Wilson:

Rehab Critical Mass Program in Budapest continues;

for Mike Griffin, Anthony Shields:

**Morning:** site visits in Budapest

**1:00PM:** Visit the LIGET protesters camp;

**6:00PM:** Participate in event “We stand with Standing Rock”; Lecture and meeting with the organizers of Hungarian Standing Rock protest and organizers of LIGET;

for Brock Grosso, Mike Griffin, Anthony Shields:

**Evening:** Joint dinner;

### Friday, March 3

#### Budapest

for Brock Grosso, Erik Shelley, Candace Coleman & Thomas Wilson:

Free time in Budapest; and working on closing activities/evaluation plans for follow on activities

for Mike Griffin, Anthony Shields:

**Morning:** preparation for the workshop

**1:00PM:** Training Day 1 - National meeting of HU Community organizers;

### Saturday, March 4

#### Budapest

for Brock Grosse, Erik Shelley, Candace

Coleman & Thomas Wilson:

Free time to enjoy Budapest and finishing the closing activities;

for Mike Griffin, Anthony Shields:

**9:00AM-4:00PM:** Training Day 2: 1 - National meeting of HU Community organizers;

**Evening:** Joint Farewell Dinner for US Mentors and evaluation with Hungarian Country Director and alumni partners;

### Sunday, March 5

#### Travel day

Departure from Budapest; US Mentors return to the United States.

## ROMANIA 2017: February 19 - March 9

**US Mentors: Michael Tierney (Feb 19-26), Mike Griffin and Anthony Shields (Feb 19-26),  
Ronnie Harris (Feb 23-March 09)**

### Sunday, February 19

#### Travel day / Bucharest

**Afternoon:** Michael Tierney, Mike Griffin, Anthony Shields arrival in Otopeni airport

Pick-up by Vlad Catuna and alumni; Check-in at the Hotel

**7:00PM:** Dinner and Orientation

### Monday, February 20 Bucharest

**11:00AM:** Meeting at CeRe office with fall 2016 Alumni - Catalina Olteanu, Marius Tudor, Cristina Tanase and Aurora Martin;

Finalizing workshop agenda and planning for Saturday (Feb. 25): “Introduction to Community Organizing”;

**12:30PM:** Lunch-meeting with CeRe staff; Presentation of CeRe activity; (Optional) Participate in Conference; Presentation - “Ziua dezrobirii romilor in Europa” [Abolishing of Roma Slavery in Europe];

**3:00PM:** Meeting with National Agency for Equal Chances;

**7:00PM:** Joint dinner with fall 2016 alumni - to talk about the implementation of their projects proposed and discussion about their follow on action plans and progress;

### Tuesday, February 21 Bucharest

**10:00AM-12:00Noon:** Meeting with a large group of NGO representatives and Romanian alumni to share experience and best practices in their grassroots work at the Romanian American Foundation organized by US Embassy in Bucharest; interviews for US mentors with journalists.

US mentors presentations on Black History Month organized by the US Embassy in Bucharest: “The Civil Rights Movement and Leadership for Diversity”  
**2:00PM:** by Mike Griffin & Anthony Shields at the University of Bucharest at American Language Corner;

**2:00PM:** by Michael Tierney at the Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest-Center for American Studies.

**5:00PM:** #SustinLGBT Workshop: Attracting allies and improving individual advocacy for social justice; organized by Mihnea Florea and hosted by MozaiQ—in collaboration with Funky Citizens—within the LGBT History Month campaign. A capacity building workshop on how to better use social capital to fight against the constitutional ban of gay marriage in Romania.

**8:00PM:** Joint Dinner with US Mentors

and alumni;

### Wednesday, February 22

#### Bucharest/Ploiesti/Giurgiu

for Mike Griffin & Anthony Shields:

**Morning:** Check-out from the Hotel and go in Ploiesti with Marius Tudor; Hosted by Marius Tudor Family;

**11:00AM-1:00PM:** Meeting the board of CRIS; Presenting CRIS activity in the last 3 years;

**1:00-2:30PM:** Lunch;

**2:30-4:00PM:** Meeting 20 young Roma organizers in the community development project developed by CRIS;

**4:00-6:00PM:** Meeting the Roma coalition members from Marginenii de Jos, Campina, Ploiesti and Ditesti. Cooking together the dinner and sharing experiences on organizing in the four Roma communities where CRIS is working;

**6:00-8:00PM:** Joint dinner;

for Michael Tierney:

Program with Cristina Tanase, alumni Fall 2016;

**10:00AM-12:00PM:** Meeting with Director from Save Children Romania Organization;

**1:00PM:** Traveling to Giurgiu (40 km. from Bucharest); Training-meeting with

## ITINERARY \*

Roma Community from Giurgiu led by Michael Tierney and Cristina Tanase; Meeting with Church Leaders;

### Thursday, February 23

#### Ploiesti / Giurgiu

*for Mike Griffin & Anthony Shields:*

Training in Ploiesti on leadership and organizing for 20 young Roma organizers in Marginenii de Jos;

*Discussion topics:* - What is community organizing and leadership? - People, power, change;

*Evening:* return to hotel in Bucharest

*for Ronnie Harris and Michael Tierney:*

**Ronnie Harris** arrival in Bucharest; Pick-up by Aurora Martin check-in to hotel

**11:00AM-2:00PM:** Visit organizations fighting against human trafficking;

**3:00-5:00PM:** Meeting at Governmental agency that fights human trafficking;

### Friday, February 24

#### Bucharest/Ditesti

**9:00AM:** All US mentors will travel together to Roma Community in Ditesti; Meet the community and its leaders; attend a concert of local band;

**4:00PM:** Travel back to Bucharest;

*Evening:* Dinner and final preparations for Saturday (Feb. 25) workshop;

### Saturday, February 25 Bucharest

All day long - Introductory workshop on Community Organizing for spring 2017 fellows and for fall 2017 applicants;

### Sunday, February 26

#### Bucharest / Travel day

*for Ronnie Harris:*

**9:00AM:** Visit Tei Community Center in Lacul Tei Neighborhood;

*for Mike Griffin, Anthony Shields & Michael Tierney:*

Program evaluation & departure;

**Michael Tierney** will travel to Bulgaria;

**Mike Griffin** and **Anthony Shields** will travel to Hungary;

*for Ronnie Harris & Aurora Martin:*

### Monday, February 27 Cluj

Fly to Cluj and check in to hotel for 2 nights; Conference with high school students, and local NGOs involved in combating human trafficking; Meeting & interview at local television

### Tuesday, February 28 Baia Mare

*Morning:* Travel by car to Baia Mare;

Visit Baia Mare City Hall;

*Meeting with:* Representatives of Social Work Department; Roma leaders from 7 Roma communities; Roma university students from the Young Roma Maramures Association;

*Evening:* Return to Cluj;

### Wednesday, March 1 Iasi

Fly from Cluj to Iasi and check-in to hotel for 2 nights; Conference with students and other NGO partners;

### Thursday, March 2 Iasi

Visit Regional Anti-Trafficking Agency, and local NGOS combating human trafficking;

### Wednesday, March 3 Focani

Travel with car to Focani and check-

in to hotel for 2 nights; Conference with students & NGO partners;

### Saturday, March 4 Focani

Meeting at City Hall with social workers; Visit Social Center & Red Cross; Interview with local television station;

### Sunday, March 5 Dumbraveni

Travel to Dumbraveni; Meeting with Mayor and social workers from neighboring village;

*Evening:* Return from Focani to Bucharest; Check-in hotel;

### Monday, March 6 Bucharest

Debriefing & meeting with 4 NGOs which are part of the coalition; Interview with TV station;

### Tuesday, March 7 Bucharest

Conference with Matei Basarab high school students; Meeting with 3 NGOs and UNESCO Romania;

### Wednesday, March 8 Bucharest

*Meetings with:* - The Romanian National Council for Refugees; - The International Organization of Migration; - National Anti-Trafficking Agency; *Evening:* Debriefing and strategic planning; Program evaluation;

### Thursday, March 9 Travel day

*Morning:* Meeting with Her Royal Highness, Princess Maria;

*Afternoon:* Ronnie Harris departure from Bucharest; Return to the U.S.

## SLOVAKIA 2017: February 19 - March 6

*US Mentors: Trinity Dix (Feb 19-25), Blanca Surgeon (Feb 28-March 6)*

*for Trinity Dix:*

### Sunday, February 19

#### Travel day / Bratislava

**11:30AM:** Trinity Dix arrival to Vienna;

**12:30PM:** Departure to Bratislava by bus; Pick-up by Veronika Strelkova; Check-in to the Hotel Blues for 1 night;

**2:30PM:** Orientation to Slovakia and late lunch in the local restaurant with Veronika Strelkova;

**4:00PM:** Sightseeing in Bratislava;

**6:00PM:** Dinner meeting with alumni in Bratislava;

### Monday, February 20

#### Bratislava/Banska Bystrica

**9:00AM:** Introduction to Community Organizing with 2017 Pro Fellows Fall Applicants; Individual interviews;

**11:30AM:** Meeting with the Embassy representatives;



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**1:00PM:** Lunch;

**2:30-5:30PM:** Travel to Banska Bystrica with Veronica Strelcova; Planning the training workshop agenda for next day;

**6:30PM:** Dinner with CKO Team in Banska Bystrica;

### Tuesday, February 21

#### Banska Bystrica / Banska Stiavnica

**9:00AM:** Workshop for 2017 fellows;

**2:00-7:00PM:** Travel to Banska Stiavnica; Sightseeing and dinner on the road at local restaurant;

**Evening:** Return to Banska Bystrica;

### Wednesday, February 22

#### Field visits

**9:00AM:** Travel to Tisovec; Sightseeing on the road;

**12:00Noon:** Lunch at Vigľas;

**Afternoon:** Training in Tisovec for students of EGT High school; Dinner at Salas Zbojska;

**Evening:** Accommodation at Kokava Nad Rimavicou with local alumni;

### Thursday, February 23

#### Field visits continue

**Morning:** Community Meeting Day; Sightseeing of preserved traditional settlement in Drabsko, Kysuca;

**Noon:** Lunch at Maginhrad;

**Afternoon:** Visit of Malohont Local Action Group;

**Discussion topics:** - community development, - rural development projects in Hrachovo;

Visit neighbourhood in Liesnica, Kokava Nad Rimavicou; Evaluation on "What we had done";

Participation in community meeting; Visit of some neighbours; One-to-One interviews;

**Evening:** Dinner and hospitality at Sona Keresztesova's house;

### Friday, February 24 Lucenec

**Morning:** Travel to Lucenec; Sightseeing;

**Afternoon:** Visit the Elementary school; Meeting with M.R. Stefanik and participate in the beekeeping class; Campaign planning for Pollinator week

with involvement of parents, different organizations and schools;

**Topics:** - Peer-to-Peer teaching,

- municipality and business;

- about training community organizing for NGOs in Lucenec;

**Evening:** Dinner in the Kokava Nad Rimavicou;

### Saturday, February 25 Travel day

Drive with Sona Keresztesova to Budapest, Hungary and check-in to hotel in Budapest for 1 night.

### Sunday, February 26 Travel day

**Morning:** Early fly to Sofia, Bulgaria;

for Blanca Surgeon:

### Tuesday, February 28

#### Travel day - Cigel

**6:00PM:** Blanca Surgeon arrival to Cigel by car with Boglarka Dombi; Program orientation with Edita Bednarova, and dinner at Pizzeria Senk;

### Wednesday, March 1

#### Cigel/Prievidza/Bojnice

**9:00AM:** Sightseeing in Cigel;

Discovering regional economy;

Introduction to local situation and context;

**11:00AM:** Sightseeing in Prievidza; Visit Municipality Hall and local youth NGOs;

**12:30PM:** Lunch at "Top Café";

**2:00PM:** Sightseeing in Bojnice; Visit of local municipality and local businesses;

**Evening:** Dinner at Pansky Pivovar Bojnice; Return to Prievidza;

### Thursday, March 2 Prievidza

**9:00AM:** Final preparations for the training; Assistance to participants to reach Prievidza;

**2:00PM:** Common meeting with training participants - networking and interaction; Lunch at Oaza Penzion restaurant;

**6:00PM:** Training on Entrepreneurship mindset start-up;

**Evening:** Joint dinner at Kupeľna Kaviarnicka restaurant;

### Friday, March 3 Prievidza

**9:00AM:** Follow-up on the training - networking and interaction between alumni network members and Blanca Surgeon;

**1:00PM:** Discovering local businesses - Visit ZelenyBicykel and Caffè Trieste, new local businesses, meeting with the owners, employees, etc;

Lunch in FunCaffè restaurant;

**6:00PM:** Joint dinner and relax time in the spa Kupele Bojnice;

### Saturday, March 4 Prievidza

**9:00AM:** Informal meetings with personalities in the business sector from local businesses StartItUp and CoWorking Hajcman Prievidza;

**12:30PM:** Lunch at the Meridiana Bojnice restaurant;

**2:00PM:** Informal meetings with personalities working in the area of culture from NasaPrievidza and Galeria Velvet Bojnice;

**6:00PM:** Joint dinner and relax time in the spa Kupele Bojnice;

### Sunday, March 5 Prievidza

Visit to Piarist church in Prievidza;

Visit to mining museum, Bojnice sightseeing including castle and ZOO;

### Monday, March 6

#### - Thursday, March 9

Blanca Surgeon departure from Slovakia on March 6, 2017 and have individual travel plans;

### Friday, March 10 Budapest

Travel back to Budapest, Hungary;

### Saturday, March 11 Budapest

Evaluation & Planning of follow on activities with Hungarian country director Mate Varga; Sightseeing in Budapest;

### Sunday, March 12 Travel day

**Morning:** Very early departure from Budapest, Hungary back to the U.S.A.

## ITINERARY \*

### BULGARIA 2017: February 22- March 5

**US mentors:** Emily Terrana (Feb 22-M.05), Trinity Dix (Feb 26-March 4),  
Michael Tierney (Feb 26-March 5), and Jeffrey Bartow (Feb 26-March 5)

#### Wednesday, February 22

##### Travel day / Sofia

**Emily Terrana** arrival to Sofia Airport;  
Pick-up by Yana Yancheva; Check-in to hotel for 1 night;  
**Evening:** Dinner and orientation;

#### Thursday, February 23 Varshets

**Morning:** Travel to Berkovitsa by car; Sightseeing on the road. Workshop planning and other activities organized by Yana Yancheva;  
**Evening:** Accommodation with Yana's family for 2 nights;

#### Friday, February 24 Varshets

Meetings with local Roma community organization; Visits and meetings with two local Roma communities;

#### Saturday, February 25 Varshets

Sightseeing in the region;

#### Sunday, February 26 Sofia

*for Emily Terrana & Yana Yancheva:*

**Morning:** Travel back to Sofia; Check-in to hotel;

**Afternoon:** Michael Tierney, Jeffrey Bartow and Trinity Dix arrival to Sofia Airport; Pick-up by Bulgarian alumni; Check-in to Hotel;

**7:00PM:** Orientation and joint dinner of 4 US Mentors with Emil Metodiev, Yana Yancheva, Liliya Georgieva, Vladislav Petkov, Milena Yordanova, Tsvetomir Nenov and other alumni.

#### Monday, February 27 Sofia

**10:00AM-1:00PM:** Training for Professional Fellows applied for 2017 exchange programs;

**2:30-5:30PM:** Individual sessions with alumni 2016 and new applicants 2017;

**6:00-7:30PM:** BG Alumni Network Meeting with US Mentors;

**8:00PM:** Joint dinner;

#### Tuesday, February 28

##### Sofia

**10:00AM-12:00PM:** Meeting with the US Embassy in Sofia;

**1:00PM:** Lunch;

**3:00-6:00PM:** Individual Programs;  
*for Michael Tierney, Milena Nikolova:*

Meeting with the National Network for Children;

*for Trinity Dix, Liliya Georgieva:*

Cultural events and training with Liliya's Community;

*for Emily Terrana, Yana Yancheva:*

Meeting at Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies; Presentation by Emily Terrana about PUSH Buffalo's activities and mission;

*for Jeffrey Bartow, Tsvetomir Nenov:*

Consultation and site visits;

**Evening:** Joint dinner for US Mentors;

#### Wednesday, March 1

##### Sofia/Field visits

**10:00AM:** Individual programs;

*for Michael Tierney, Milena Nikolova:*

Training with the National Network for Children in Sofia;

*for Trinity Dix, Liliya Georgieva:*

Travel to Gotse Delchev; Check-in to Hotel for 2 nights; Sightseeing;

*for Jeffrey Bartow, Tsvetomir Nenov:*

Travel to Mizia; Check-in to Hotel for 3 nights; Sightseeing;

*for Emily Terrana, Yana Yancheva:*

**Morning:** Travel to Varshets;

**10:00AM-1:00PM:** Training on community organizing for community leaders;

**1:00PM:** Meeting with the Center of Bessarabian Bulgarians in Bulgaria;

#### Thursday, March 2

##### Sofia / Field visits

*for Michael Tierney, Milena Nikolova:*

Training with the National Network for Children in Sofia continue;

*for Trinity Dix, Liliya Georgieva:*

Program in Gotse Delchev;

*for Jeffrey Bartow, Tsvetomir Nenov:*

Program in Mizia;

*for Emily Terrana, Yana Yancheva:*

**10:00AM-1:00PM:** Training on community organizing for community leaders in Varshets continues

**Afternoon:** Travel to Plovdiv; Check-in to Hotel for 2 nights; Sightseeing;

#### Friday, March 3

##### Field visits / Sofia

*for Michael Tierney, Milena Nikolova:*

Travel to Harmanli, attend meetings with volunteers and refugees;

Accommodation in Plovdiv and check-in to Dafi Hotel for 1 night;

*for Trinity Dix, Liliya Georgieva:*

Sightseeing in Gotse Delchev; Travel back to Sofia;

*for Jeffrey Bartow, Tsvetomir Nenov:*

Travel to Pleven; Sightseeing on the road; Return to hotel in Mizia;

*for Emily Terrana, Yana Yancheva:*

Visit Asen Karagyzov's community in Plovdiv; Sightseeing on road;

#### Saturday, March 4

##### Sofia / Travel day

*for Michael Tierney, Milena Nikolova:*

Sightseeing in Plovdiv; Travel back to Sofia;

*for Trinity Dix:* Departure from Sofia Airport to travel back to the U.S.

*for Jeffrey Bartow, Tsvetomir Nenov:*

Sightseeing in Mizia; Travel back to Sofia;

*for Emily Terrana, Yana Yancheva:*

Return from Plovdiv to Sofia;

**7:00PM:** Joint Farewell Dinner for US Mentors and BG Alumni & evaluation;

#### Sunday, March 5 Travel day

*for Emily Terrana, Michael Tierney, Jeffrey Bartow:*

Check-out from hotel; Departure to Sofia Airport; Fly back to the United States.