

Dr. Dan E. Davidson

President

Dan E. Davidson, President of American Councils for International Education has focused much of his professional life on the development, oversight, and support of international initiatives in educational development, training, and research, primarily through the work of American Councils and its partner organizations in the U. S., Eurasia, Africa, the Middle East and Asia. In its four decades, American Councils has developed into one of the premier American education and international training organizations, designing and implementing large-scale U.S. and foreign government-funded exchange and fellowship programs, as well as major initiatives in research, development and innovation funded by private foundations and donor groups.

Dr. Davidson received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Slavic Languages and Literatures from Harvard University, and has studied as well at Bonn, Moscow State University and the Harvard Institute for Social Enterprise. He is author or editor of forty-four books and more than 60 articles in the fields of language, culture, and educational development and holds the rank of professor at Bryn Mawr College (Pennsylvania) where he has taught and directed 35 Ph.D. dissertations in the field of Russian and second-language acquisition.

From 1992–1995, Dr. Davidson also served as co-chairman of the Transformation of the Humanities and Social Sciences initiative sponsored by philanthropist George Soros. The program produced over four hundred experimental textbooks for schools and colleges in Eurasia. Dr. Davidson has overseen the creation and development of national testing/assessment projects/programs in the Republic of Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Ukraine, and the U.S., with support from USAID, the World Bank and the five respective governments of those nations, as well as privately-funded programs supporting the development of international cooperation in the study and teaching of the humanities and social sciences.

Currently, Dan Davidson serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Governors of the European Humanities University (Vilnius), and Chair of the College Board World Languages Academic Advisory Committee. He is immediate past president and current Executive Committee member of the Joint National Committee for Languages (JNCL), elected vice-president of the International Association of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature, and board chair of the Center for Educational Testing, Assessment, and Methodology (Kyrgyzstan), the first independent educational testing center in Central Asia.

Dr. Davidson is an elected foreign member of the Russian and the Ukrainian Academies of Education and recipient of an honorary professorship from Kyrgyz National University (Bishkek) and of honorary doctoral degrees from Almaty State University (Kazakhstan), the Russian Academy of Sciences (Division of Language and Literature), and the State University of World Languages (Uzbekistan). He has received awards for distinguished service to the profession from the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) in 1995 and the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages of the Modern Language Association (ADFL/MLA) in 1997. In 2005 he received the Kyrgyz National Medal of Honor (“Dank”).