



Ambassador Michael C. Polt is ASU's Ambassador-in-Residence and Co-Founder of the ASU Leadership, Diplomacy and National Security Lab. He lends his lifetime career experience as a U.S. diplomat to the students, faculty, and life-time learner community of Arizona State University. With his office in ASU's Barrett and O'Connor Center in Washington, D.C., the Ambassador focuses on foreign policy leadership, diplomacy, and international affairs education and training. From 2012 to 2020, Mr. Polt led the international leadership development programs at ASU's McCain Institute in Washington, D.C. as Senior Director.

During his 35-year diplomatic career, Mr. Polt served as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia and as Ambassador to Serbia and Montenegro. Prior to his ambassadorial missions, the Ambassador was Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs in the Powell and Clinton State Departments. During his three decades as a career diplomat, Mr. Polt served as U.S. Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, Germany and Deputy Chief of Mission and Charge' d' Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Bern, Switzerland. He has also served as Senior Advisor to the Director General of the Foreign Service and was a key member of the Senior Management Steering Board directing the State Department's 2003-2005 multi-million-dollar reinvention of its Diplomatic Communications System. The Ambassador is a member of the American Academy of Diplomacy and the American Foreign Service Association. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Baltic-American Freedom Foundation.

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