

Brianne Todd is a distinguished policy practitioner and scholar specializing in U.S. foreign policy and regional security issues in Central Asia. She currently serves as a Professor of Practice at the U.S. Department of Defense's Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies at the National Defense University, where she leads initiatives and strategic engagement across the region.

From 2023 to 2025, Professor Todd served as Director for Central Asian Affairs at the National Security Council, where she coordinated U.S. policy across the diplomatic, economic, defense, and intelligence lines of effort. Her leadership helped advance U.S. strategic objectives in a complex and evolving regional landscape. Previously, she held key roles at the U.S. Department of State and the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, earning commendations for her contributions to U.S. policy on Central Asia and Afghanistan.

With a deep commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship and professional engagement, Professor Todd is a Lifetime Member of the Central Eurasian Studies Society and active in organizations such as the Oxus Society for Central Asian Affairs, the Women's Foreign Policy Group, and Women in Defense. She brings to her work a strong belief in fostering the next generation of leaders through mentorship, teaching, and policy-relevant research.

Professor Todd holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Russian Language & Literature, and Russian & East European Studies from the University of Notre Dame, and a Master of Arts in Eurasian, Russian & East European Studies from Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service.