

EDMUND & COLLEEN DISANTO STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & INNOVATION FUND

Windows on Washington:
Commercial Diplomacy Program



Our Benefactors

The Windows on Washington: Commercial Diplomacy Program is made possible by a generous endowed gift from Edmund “Ed” DiSanto (CPS ’75), former Executive Vice President at American Tower Corporation (ATC), and his wife, Colleen DiSanto.

Ed has had a distinguished career intertwined with emerging markets, significantly contributing to ATC's expansion in countries such as Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ghana, India, Mexico, Peru, and Uganda. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S.-India Business Council and the Business Council for International Understanding. Ed has served on the Center for Emerging Markets' advisory board since 2023.

The Edmund and Colleen DiSanto Student Engagement and Innovation Fund aims to support Northeastern students who attended Boston-area high schools, enabling them to participate in global-focused experiences.

In addition to their support for CEM, Ed and Colleen DiSanto are funding a new student success initiative within the College of Professional Studies at Northeastern. Both of these generous contributions from Ed and Colleen exemplify their commitment to fostering educational opportunities and innovation, reflecting their deep ties to Northeastern and the broader Boston community.



About the Program

The Windows on Washington: Commercial Diplomacy Program, run in collaboration with the Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU), is an immersive educational program for undergraduate students to gain a practical understanding of commercial diplomacy and global policymaking in Washington, DC.

Over the course of four days, students participate in a series of curated briefings, site visits, and high-level engagements with U.S. government agencies, corporate leaders, and multilateral institutions to explore how technical expertise can influence global policy outcomes. They also participate in a mock strategic market entry project to apply takeaways to real-world scenarios.

The 2026 program included meetings with:

- The Bureau of Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs
- National Science Foundation
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs
- American Tower Corporation & National Association of Real Estate Trusts
- U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA)
- Department of State

At the conclusion of the program, students walk away with a deeper understanding of how business and government collaborate internationally, skills in navigating policy and regulatory landscapes that impact global trade, and networking experience with government officials, diplomats, and corporate executives.

2026 Participants

10 undergraduate students from the D'Amore-McKim School of Business and the College of Social Sciences and Humanities took part in the inaugural iteration of the Windows on Washington: Commercial Diplomacy Program:



Lucy Abdow
CSSH'26
Politics, Philosophy,
& Economics



Sabrin Ali
DMSB'28
Accounting



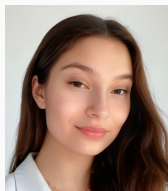
Kevin Almanzar
CSSH'28
International Affairs
& Criminal Justice



Naomi Barrant
DMSB'26
Business
Administration
& Communication
Studies



Jack Churchill-Valencia
DMSB'27
International Business
& International Affairs



Melisa Devedzic
DMSB'27
Business
Administration



Karen Guillen
DMSB'26
Business
Administration &
Psychology



Jemima Jean-Louis
DMSB'26
Business
Administration



Mariam Ismail
DMSB'26
Business
Administration &
Health Science



Yalaine Perez
DMSB'28
Business
Administration



"I came in thinking commercial diplomacy was primarily about trade agreements and government negotiations. I left understanding it as something much more dynamic that includes a continuous process of relationship building, problem solving, and strategic communication, requiring technical knowledge and cultural fluency."

Sabrin Ali, DMSB'28