

OPENING REMARKS BY COUNSELOR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS (US Embassy, Kyiv, Ukraine) CONRAD TURNER

It is a great pleasure to be here with you today at the “Building a New Ukraine” conference sponsored by the Fulbright Circle Alumni Association and the Fulbright Program in Ukraine with the support of the US Embassy.

I feel the energy, intellect and wisdom gathered in this great hall of the Kyiv Mohyla Academy and I hope that over the next two days, the participants of this conference will be actively involved in promoting new ideas for reform in the energy sector, in the economy, in international relations, in local government administration and decentralization, in the humanities, in both the private and public spheres. We hope that these ideas will develop into useful discussions and in turn become a driving factor in developing action plans for both the government and private initiatives. All of you have so much to contribute to the future of your country, as it takes its rightful place among the European community of nations.

The Fulbright name stands for scholarly excellence and public awareness. It stands for achievement and continues to be recognized throughout the world as the flagship of academic exchanges. You are game changers. And at this particular time, at a time of great challenges in Ukraine, we hope that the Ukrainian government and civil society will turn to you for your expertise and ideas.

Individually, every one of you has a lot to offer in your respective fields. United in the Ukrainian Fulbright Circle, you are a force to be reckoned with. If that force is organized, goal-oriented and coherent – as the Ukrainian Fulbright Circle has shown to be – its impact for the good of the country will be significant.

During these 22 years that the Fulbright Program has flourished in Ukraine, close to 900 Ukrainian scholars and students have been to the

United States to learn, research, listen and observe in an exchange of ideas and experiences. What a powerhouse you are!

I celebrate you on the first anniversary of the establishment of the Ukrainian Fulbright Circle and wish the alumni association many more years of success. I do hope that this conference becomes an annual event and serves as a powerful forum of idea exchange which can be put into action.

Wishing you a productive conference and a blessed Thanksgiving!

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