

IFE's 2024 Summer Social Welcomes DC's Gatekeepers

29 AUGUST 2024 | WASHINGTON, DC



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The Institute for Education's (IFE) Ninth Annual Summer Social continues to build bridges among the city's elite gatekeepers, protocol professionals, and social secretaries. With over 20 embassies, three federal agencies, and the White House represented, the 2024 event was a vibrant celebration of international collaboration and diplomacy. Co-hosted by IFE's Deputy Director **Elise Ravenscroft**, **Gwenda DeMoor** from the Belgian Embassy, and **Kiyomi Buker** from the Japanese Embassy, the event featured Congressional Country Club's signature Seabreeze cocktails on the Great Lawn.

IFE's Founder and CEO, **Coach Kathy Kemper**, warmly welcomed guests to the luncheon, emphasizing the significance of hosting the event at the historic Congressional Country Club. She highlighted the club's rich history of fostering meaningful connections, making it the perfect setting for this annual gathering. Coach underscored how the venue's legacy of bringing people together aligns with IFE's mission and the yearly luncheon celebrating the vital roles of DC's vital protocol professionals and social secretaries.

Guests embodied summer chic with an array of stylish sundresses and wide-brimmed hats that added a touch of glamour, shielding faces from the sun while exuding sophistication. The combination of elegant attire and effortless accessories created an atmosphere of relaxed yet refined end-of-summer summer elegance, perfectly complementing the scenic backdrop of the golf course.

The buffet featured crisp green salads, flavorful tuna and chicken salads, and perfectly cooked salmon and chicken filets. Indulgent French fries added a satisfying crunch, while fresh-cut fruit provided a refreshing contrast. For dessert, a playful selection of colorful popsicles and delectable gelato offered a sweet, cooling treat to cap off the meal.

We are grateful to our special guest, former White House Social Secretary and author **Deesha Dyer**, who enriched the event with insights from her book **Undiplomatic**. Deesha shared how she overcame imposter syndrome to land one of the most exclusive and exciting positions at the White House. She emphasized the importance of embracing authenticity at all costs and resonated with the luncheon guests who, like her, strive to exceed expectations and deliver high-impact results, even under the brightest spotlight.

Although this was the first time connecting voices from phone calls, texts, and emails with faces for many, for Coach, Elise, Gwenda, and Kiyomi, the lunch proved that friendship is the foundation for a successful and ongoing collaboration.



The afternoon concluded with a promise to continue convening and making things happen, two defining aspects of both IFE and the gatekeepers, which has, for the past 32 years, brought DC's influencers and decision-makers together.

We'll see everyone next year to celebrate our 10th anniversary!