

The Texas Global Exchange Program – Astana Economic Form 2014

CENTER FOR RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES



Window on State Government

Susan Combs Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

TXOGA Texas Oil & Gas Association



This exchange, coordinated through the University of Texas at Austin, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Susan Combs, the Kazakh American Friendship Council and the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians, is hosting a week-long forum focusing on the economic ties between Texas and Kazakhstan, the **VII Astana Economic Forum** in Astana, Kazakhstan, between May 16th and 25th 2014. The program will provide eligible industry leaders from Oil and Gas sectors, students and faculty members with the opportunity to travel abroad; attend lectures on business, energy, geopolitical issues, and public and international affairs; interact with local students; and meet with local companies and non-profit organizations. Students will make contacts in the area, gain cultural experience, and learn about business and international affairs in Eurasia.

Susan Combs, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts



Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Susan Combs will join the Astana Economic Form as a speaker. She is committed to making state government work better for Texans, through open, responsive, and transparent government. Combs brings a strong, fiscally conservative philosophy to the Comptroller's office, and serves as the state's treasurer, check writer, tax collector, state procurement officer, and revenue estimator. Combs insists that taxpayer money be spent wisely and that both citizens and their elected officials have a true accounting of the state's finances.

On her fourth day in office, Combs put all of her agency's expenditures on the web. Six months later she posted expenditures for all state agencies. This has been widely seen as the nation's most innovative transparency effort and numerous other states contacted her office for guidance for their own state. Most recently she issued reports enabling all Texans to find out who is taxing them, what it costs, how much debt they owe, and the condition of all public pensions.

Since being elected Texas Comptroller in 2006 and re-elected in 2010, she has driven sweeping reforms in state purchasing and contracting, saving nearly \$12 million in her agency alone. Across state agency purchasing, her efforts have saved over \$100 million through volume purchasing. Because she knows that citizens have a right to their unclaimed property, she has returned \$897 million to its rightful owners, an amount unmatched by her predecessors in the same time period.

Dedicated to further securing private data for citizens and businesses and combating identity threats, Combs joined the Advisory Board of the University of Texas Center for Identity in the summer of 2011. In this role, she created and chairs the Child ID Task Force, which is responsible for developing solutions to prevent childhood identity theft.

Combs has long been a crusader for Texas children, first serving Texans as an Assistant District Attorney in Dallas County where she handled child abuse cases. In addition, as the first woman elected as Texas Agriculture Commissioner, Combs developed the nation's most sweeping childhood nutrition policies in public schools to combat obesity, receiving national recognition.

Combs is also a strong private property rights advocate who in 1995 co-authored and passed Texas' landmark private property rights legislation fighting federal government overreach. She has worked for many years to ensure military installations can carry out their critical operations in the face of increased endangered species regulation, by working to find innovative solutions. Combs is the presiding officer of the statewide Interagency Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species, and maintains the Keeping Texas First website to track the economic impact of federal action on endangered species, air and water, as well as providing information to affected communities.

Combs understands the private sector is the engine of the economy, so as Comptroller, she will continue to fight for limited federal regulation to keep the economy strong, as well as ensure government transparency at all levels.

Texas Oil & Gas Association

Debra M. Hastings Executive Vice President and Cory A. Pomeroy Vice-President and General Counsel of Texas Oil & Gas Association will join the Texas Global Exchange Program. Texas Oil & Gas Association (TXOGA) is a statewide trade association with approximately 5,000 members representing every facet of the Texas oil and gas industry including small independents and major producers. TXOGA members account for over 90 percent of all crude oil and natural gas produced in Texas; they operate a vast majority of the State's pipeline mileage and gas processing capacity; and they are responsible for a preponderance of the State's refining capacity. Founded in 1919, TXOGA is the oldest and largest group

in the State representing petroleum interests and continues to serve as the only organization which embraces all segments of the industry.

Draft Program

Friday, May 16, 2014	Depart AUSTIN
2:45am Sunday, May 18	Arrive ASTANA
	Go straight to hotel in Astana after arriving
	Sightseeing in Astana
Monday, May 19, 2014	ASTANA
	Meeting with Oil and Gas Companies and Official Meetings
5/20/2014, Tuesday	ASTANA
	Meeting with Oil and Gas Companies and Official Meetings
5/21/2014, Wednesday	ASTANA
	Astana Economic Form
5/22/2014, Thursday	ASTANA
	Astana Economic Form
5/23/2014, Friday	ASTANA
	Astana Economic Form
5/24/2014, Saturday	ASTANA - ISTANBUL
	Spend the night in Istanbul
5/25/2014, Sunday	ISTANBUL - AUSTIN
	1:05PM TK33

Texas Global Exchange Program Official Group

Susan Combs, as a speaker
http://www.window.state.tx.us/comptrol/scbio.html
Debbra Hasting, TXOGA
http://www.txoga.org/about/officers/
Corey Pomeroy, TXOGA
http://www.txoga.org/about/officers/
Dr. Yetkin Yildirim, University of Texas at Austin
http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/creees/faculty/yetkin

Texas Global Exchange Program Student Group

UNIVERSITY	NAME	MAJOR
Texas A&M International University	Christina Cuellar	Business Administration
The University of Texas at Austin	Jason M. Bilodeau	Global Policy Studies
The University of Texas at Austin	Mollie H. Bradlee	Public Affairs
Texas State University	Serhat Yilmaz	International Studies
Texas Tech University	Melia Jones	Business of Administration
The University of Texas at Austin	Joshua P. Bartlett	Global Policy Studies International
The University of Texas at Austin	Logan B. Tussey	Energy and Earth Sources
Southern Methodist University	Lara Vidal	International Studies & History