

Keith A. Eddins

Retired American diplomat Keith A. Eddins is an adjunct instructor with the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (REEES) program at the University of Oregon. He also teaches in the Conflict and Dispute Resolution (CRES) program and for the Department of Planning, Public Policy, and Management (PPPM).

Eddins previously served as *Chargé d'affaires* of the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava, Slovakia. He led an activist embassy whose agenda emphasized anti-corruption policies, judicial independence, freedom of the press, and minority rights. A professional diplomat for three decades, Eddins also served at the U.S. Mission to NATO in Brussels, the American Embassy in Moscow, and the American Embassy in Prague. He held complementary assignments on the State Department's Russia Desk, in its NATO affairs office, and as a Special Assistant to Secretary of State George P. Shultz. During those tours, he focused on U.S.-European relations, including conventional arms control, the dissolution of the USSR, Russia's post-Soviet transition to fledgling democracy, and NATO's outreach to its former Warsaw Pact adversaries.

Throughout his diplomatic career, Eddins remained closely engaged with education, both academic and professional. On a leave of absence from the Foreign Service, he completed a Master of Arts degree at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. Eddins subsequently served as Director of Political Training at the State Department's Foreign Service Institute and on the Board of Examiners of the Foreign Service. In the former assignment, he led a large training program and taught a number of foreign relations, policymaking, and international security courses. In the latter, he earned a Benjamin Franklin Award for pioneering a new method of scoring the essays of prospective Foreign Service Officers.

Eddins' first State Department assignment was at the American Embassy in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Over the course of his career, Eddins received five individual Superior Honor Awards and two Meritorious Honor Awards. He also figured prominently in group Superior Honor Awards at NATO, in Moscow, in Prague, and in several Washington offices.

After moving to Oregon in September 2010, Keith A. Eddins became energetically involved with an effort to secure additional funding for Eugene's public schools. One of the organizers of ***Strong Schools Eugene***, he served as its treasurer and chief fundraiser, and also wrote many of the campaign's public statements and policy papers. He is also currently the president of the ***Eugene Figure Skating Club***.

Born and raised in Gulfport, Mississippi, Eddins received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia. An avid language student, Eddins has studied Russian, Czech, Slovak, Spanish, French, and German. On a personal level, he is particularly passionate about his family, the First Amendment, and baseball.