

NATIONAL ITALIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION LAUNCHES NEW INITIATIVES, ADDS STAFF



Paolo Messa

The National Italian American Foundation is in the midst of a period of unprecedented growth, launching several new initiatives and bringing on staff to manage the transformation.

NIAF and the Italian American Citizenship Assistance Program have entered into an exclusive multiyear partnership to help Italian Americans obtain recognition of their Italian citizenship.

Under the new agreement, NIAF will promote and raise awareness of ITAMCAP's citizenship services among its nationwide membership base and supporters. In turn, ITAMCAP will offer exclusive discounted packages to help NIAF members navigate the complex process of securing Italian dual citizenship.

As part of the collaboration, ITAMCAP will award a full-tuition scholarship to pursue a bachelor's degree in global law at Luiss University in Rome.

NIAF has also hammered out a journalism internship program with Italpress, an Italian multimedia news agency. The program will provide three Italian-American students or recent graduates with the opportunity to work for three months at the Italpress offices in Palermo, Rome or Milan. Each intern will receive a 5,000-euro stipend from NIAF to cover travel and accommodations in Italy while working 36 hours per week at Italpress.

NIAF has also partnered with the Fondazione Giovanni e Francesca Falcone to offer Fulbright grants to one American student and one Italian student to conduct research in the rule of law



through an exchange program with the foundation and a U.S. university. An anti-mafia nonprofit in Palermo, the foundation was named in honor of renowned anti-mafia Judge Giovanni Falcone, and his wife, Judge Francesca Morvillo, who were assassinated along with their three escort guards by underworld forces in 1993.

In April, NIAF appointed Paolo Messa as its executive vice president of international relations and strategic partnerships. Messa brings with him more than 20 years of experience at senior levels within major Italian institutions, corporations and government entities. Most recently, he served as the chairman of the board of directors of Leonardo US Corporation, and he currently holds the position of non-resident senior fellow at the Europe Center of the Atlantic Council.

"Paolo's extensive background working with influential Italian institutions, companies and government bodies makes him an ideal ambassador to represent NIAF's mission of promoting ties between the United States and Italy," NIAF President Robert Allegrini says.



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