TASK 1

Immigration has been a core part of Minnesota's economy, workforce, and communities for decades. However, immigration is not always seen as a benefit, and recent federal actions have highlighted local tensions.

You are a group of state legislators considering actions for this session. Consider how immigration affects Minnesota's economy, workforce, public services, schools, and healthcare. What role can the state play?

Consider the following: Where is Minnesota succeeding in conversations and actions around immigration? Where can Minnesota do better? What messaging can you take home to your constituents that will reinforce community and maintain cohesion among diverse opinions and interests? Is such messaging needed or necessary?

Develop an action plan that has at least 4 strategies for legislators.

TASK 2

Since World War II, the United States has played a central role in global policy, building close alliances with European nations including the United Kingdom, France, and Germany. During Donald Trump's second term, many of these relationships have been strained over trade and policy priorities. Recent military actions in Iran and Venezuela suggest the U.S. is increasingly acting unilaterally, sometimes without the coordination that guided prior efforts.

You are a group of State Department staffers tasked with examining these shifts. What are the strengths and risks of unilateral versus alliance-based actions? How can the U.S. balance maintaining long-standing alliances with exploring new strategies to assert both soft and hard power? Is the United States headed in a positive direction? If so, why? If not, how should the United States government change its actions?

Provide a list of at least 4 recommendations to the President and Congress.

TASK 3

Economic fragmentation and disparities are increasingly visible in towns across the country. Differences in income, access to jobs, education, and services leave some neighborhoods and populations behind, limiting overall growth and community cohesion. Nationally and globally, fractured economies and uneven development can increase costs and reduce resilience, and these effects eventually show up at the local level.

You are members of your town's city council. Where are economic differences most pronounced in your town? What programs, partnerships, or policies could reduce gaps and strengthen opportunity? Are there case studies you could use from similar communities of programs that worked or failed? What lessons would you bring to your own town?

Make a list identifying 3 strategies that the council and mayor could utilize to help begin the process of fixing this situation.