Walter L. Christman is a pioneer in the global adoption of new strategic partnerships to enable enhanced regional and global security. He is the principal architect of seven Secretary of Defense initiatives, three of which were endorsed by a President of the United States.

Dr. Christman is Chairman and CEO of the Global Challenges Forum Foundation in Geneva, Switzerland, an organization of think tanks, research centers, and academic institutions contributing to the much-needed resolution of existing and future global security challenges. He guides its work through offices in: Geneva, Switzerland; Amman, Jordan; Bangalore, India; and San Luis Obispo, California. Through it, he launched the Global Knowledge Networking Initiative in collaboration with the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to foster innovation in next-generation leadership development.

Dr. Christman is also President of Global Strategic Analysis, LLC, a forward-thinking professional services firm headquartered in San Luis Obispo, California offering confidential analytic support and creative services to world-wide clients who seek to foster innovative solutions for a secure and sustainable world. Its subsidiary, the LEADS Institute (Leadership Education and Analysis for Development and Security) promotes innovative learning and leader development.

Dr. Christman’s thirty-year career with the US Government spanned service in the Armed Forces, the US Congress, the Pentagon, the State Department, and the White House, with travel to more than fifty countries, and more than ten years of service as a US diplomat in the international community of Geneva, Switzerland. His academic career includes service as Associate Professor of Global Public Policy with the Naval Postgraduate School; Senior Fellow at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies; Affiliated Faculty of the George Mason University C4I and Cyber Center, Adjunct Faculty of the Joint Special Operations University, and as Distinguished Visiting Fellow of the Institute for National Strategic Studies at the US National Defense University.

Dr. Christman has overseen strategic collaboration efforts in support of the Office of the Secretary Defense and the U.S. Joint Forces Command in collaboration with the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and through bilateral agreements with Partner nations in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. He was principal architect and negotiator for multiple Secretary of Defense MOUs with foreign partners. He was awarded the Secretary of Defense Meritorious Service Medal for his leadership in conceiving and establishing the George C. Marshall Center for European Security Studies in Garmisch, Germany. He was also principal architect of NATO’s Partnership Training policies.

Dr. Christman holds a PhD in International Relations from the University of Geneva, a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University, a Masters in International Affairs from Columbia University, and a Bachelor of Arts from Duke University. Prior to university, he served for four years on active duty in the US Army Special Forces on an A-Team trained in the delivery of man-portable nuclear weapons. He is Airborne, Ranger, Special Forces, qualified, and was awarded a medal for heroism for risking his life to save others during peacetime training incident.

His professional associations have included the Council on Foreign Relations, Trustee of the Marshall Foundation, the Editorial Board of the journal, “European Security,” Co-Editor of the SUNY Series on Global Challenges in the 21st Century. He is a Life Member of the Global SOF Foundation. He has a book forthcoming from NDU Press on “Global Knowledge Networking.” Dr. Christman and his wife Odile have four children and one grandchild. They live in San Luis Obispo, California.