

Providing Quality Global Education for DC Youth:

Statements by Global Classrooms® DC (GCDC), the lead education program of the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA).¹

Global Education and GCDC

One of five core principles outlined by the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education at a public hearing of the State Board of Education in late 2008 addresses the theme of global citizenship, stating: **“All students will graduate from District of Columbia schools prepared to succeed in a 21st century creative economy as positive, productive and informed citizens of our community and the world.”**

Global Classrooms DC, free to DC Public and Public Charter Schools, designs and implements programming to support the global education needs of DC students. GCDC utilizes partnerships with the District of Columbia Public Schools and the U.S. State Department, a cohort of 100+ DC volunteers from area universities, nonprofits, the government, and more, and working relationships with area teachers and school administrators to serve 5th-12th graders through in-class and after-school activities.

In the 2010-11 Academic Year, GCDC will:

- Support the global education learning needs of 1,450-1,700 DC area youth
- Provide resources, activities, global issues curricula and events for teachers at 28+ DCPS and DC public charter schools, including the monthly GCDC Advocate newsletter that links to relevant local events and organizations
- Connect DC high school students with their colleagues in Ghana via videoconferences to discuss shared global concerns
- Bring DC middle school students to musical diplomacy and environmental education events at foreign embassies in DC
- Host two conferences at National Geographic with the DC Geographic Alliance, bringing 200+ middle and high school students to discuss relevant global issues
- Host a Spring Conference for 700 students at the State Department, where students will collectively design resolutions on the following topics:
 1. Human Rights of Refugees and Immigrants
 2. Climate Change
 3. HIV and Young People
 4. Microfinance and Women
 5. Situation in North Korea

Three Key Components of Global Education in DC

Linking Local to Global,

*Supporting students and teachers and filling global education gaps in our system,
Workforce Development*

¹ *Global Classrooms* is a registered trademark of the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA). GCDC is part of a worldwide Global Classrooms initiative of the UNA-USA to bring Model United Nations as a vehicle for increased global awareness and collective problem-solving skills to urban public schools and to students who may otherwise not have the opportunity to participate in such activities.

Linking Local to Global

- GCDC provides opportunities for interaction between local, national, and international students via videoconferences, field trips, school-to-school blogging, and workshops with international affairs experts. GCDC students have recently participated in:
 - The World Bank's Global Youth2Youth Conference
 - An advocacy workshop with US Ambassador to the UN, Susan Rice
 - International videoconferences with Ghanaian students
 - A special panel and hands-on activities on Refugee Crises
 - A full-day Model United Nations (UN) Program at the US State Department
- GCDC addresses topics of local relevance that also demand global and multilateral attention, and curriculum is aligned to DCPS curricular standards. Globally/locally linked topics have included: *HIV/AIDS, Trafficking, Poverty Alleviation, Access to Medication, Economics of Globalization*, and more.
- GCDC builds meaningful relationships for local students to access international policy-making organizations such as the World Bank, Pan American Health Organization, Organization of American States as well as non-governmental organizations, think tanks, government agencies and embassies.
- Particular attention is given to students in traditionally underserved schools, such as those in the District's Wards 7 and 8, reaching students who typically have limited opportunities to engage with international and policy-making institutions in the Washington Metropolitan Area or be active participants in addressing global issues.
- GCDC links knowledge of global issues to advocacy, encouraging both individual and team building opportunities in student-led activities such as letter-writing campaigns, op-ed pieces, lobbying, and designing art to share information and spread messages.

GCDC is Supporting DC Students and Teachers

- Proven 7-year success: Since beginning in 2003-2004, GCDC has increased its number of participants, diversified its activities, improved its program offerings, developed a loyal cadre of committed teachers and strengthened relationships with local partners such as the State Department and DCPS.
- Endorsements by Secretaries of State Rice and Clinton and former DCPS Chancellor Rhee.
- Since 2004, program demand has consistently increased.
- In 2009-2010, a record 1,439 students were reached, 91% from public schools in the Washington Metropolitan Area, 76% from DCPS and Public Charter schools in DC, and 27% from DC Wards 7 & 8.
- More than 2/3 of responding student conference participants in 2010 said that GCDC made their school day more interesting.
- More than half reported a greater interest in careers related to international affairs and 89% said they would like to participate again.
- Teachers report that our materials allow for hands-on engagement with global issues, and build enthusiasm and excitement in the classroom.
- GCDC offers a continuous set of global education classroom and field activities throughout the school year.

Workforce Development

- GCDC focuses on skills development that is critical for workplace success, including reading, writing, public speaking, critical thinking, cross-cultural understanding, conflict resolution, negotiation, and team work.
- GCDC provides businesses and partners with the opportunity to engage meaningfully with DC public schools in hands-on ways, through volunteer opportunities such as speaking engagements and the

development of policy topics and issues for this program related to trade, globalization, and international commerce topics.

- GCDC addresses topics of interest to the private sector such as *Economics of Globalization*, *Social Corporate Responsibility*, and *Education and Employment for Women and Girls*.
- GCDC helps students understand the global marketplace and to navigate through different cultures and perspectives through exposure to members of the international community, including policy makers, foreign dignitaries and students from other cultural backgrounds.
- Sustained sound program management and the effective use of significant volunteer support permit an annual per-student program cost of \$150.

Questions and comments may be directed to:

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