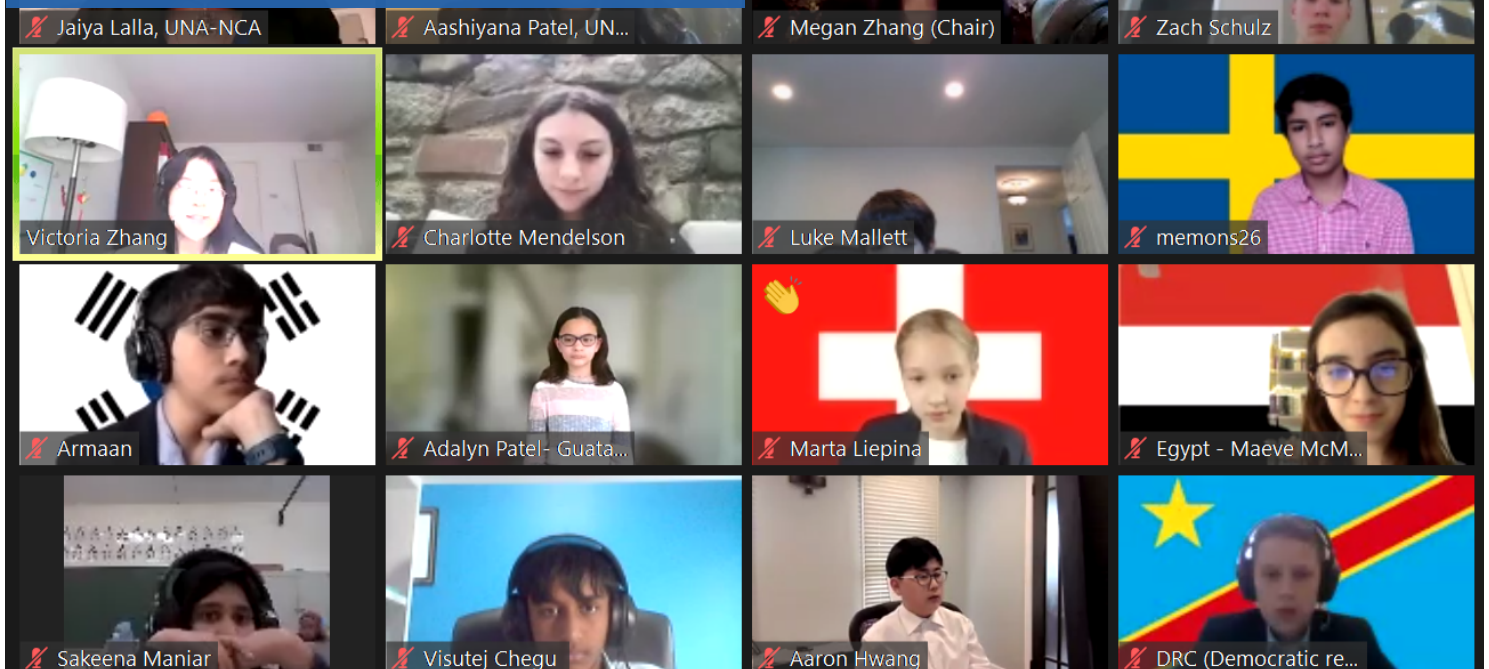




GLOBAL CLASSROOMS DC

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

WHAT IS GLOBAL CLASSROOMS DC?



Established in 2003, Global Classrooms® DC (GCDC) is the flagship education program of the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA). GCDC is a Model UN program that introduces students in grades 5-12 to the work of the United Nations and international issues. Through original global education curriculum, Model UN mini-simulations, and annual Model UN Conference opportunities, GCDC helps to equip globally aware citizens by strengthening key skills including public speaking, negotiation, research, analysis, and writing. GCDC programming is open to all public, private, and international schools, as well as homeschool co-ops, leadership organizations, and clubs in the US and abroad.

As a simulation activity, Model UN helps prepare students to be young leaders by introducing them to global issues including peace and security, the environment, human rights, and more. It allows them to critically think about these issues and discuss them with their peers while also teaching and strengthening important career skills. As representatives of a country, students discuss critical issues with other delegates and are also responsible for researching, writing, and thinking of creative solutions from their country's perspective.

Through partnerships with local agencies and organizations, GCDC is able to provide students with tangible learning opportunities. Through webinars and simulations, students can learn directly about topics related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals while being exposed to career opportunities in international affairs.

Like many organizations and programs, GCDC was not immune to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the onset of the pandemic, the GCDC team made the decision to cancel the Spring 2020 Model UN Conference. Using the extra time, GCDC quickly transitioned to an online model in March 2020. The program began offering virtual Model UN committee sessions using topics meant for the Spring Conference, as well as a Professional Development session for educators. Adapting for a virtual school year presented many challenges, but GCDC was able to modify its global education curriculum to include distance learning guidance for all activities and a guide for conducting Model UN on a virtual platform, as well as offer its annual programming virtually. The virtual school year additionally presented new opportunities to engage GCDC partners through monthly virtual Model UN sessions, webinars, and workshops and extend the reach of the program beyond the DC, Maryland, and Virginia area.

OUR IMPACT*

Program Participants

811

Students

33

Groups/Schools

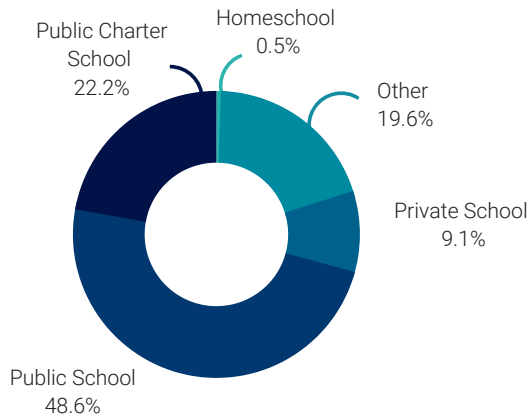
46

Volunteers

50

Teachers & Parents

Types of Schools



48.7% of students attended[†] Title 1 Schools

Grade Enrollment



Where GCDC Works

Percentage of Students



15.2%

Washington, DC



31%

Maryland



5.4%

Virginia



48.5%

Outside of the DC Area

With the increased accessibility of virtual learning, GCDC materials were provided to select UNA-USA chapters. GCDC also reached schools in the Cayman Islands, Guatemala, South Korea, and Venezuela

Students and teachers identified the top skills that Model UN helped strengthen:



TEAMWORK



WRITING SKILLS



RESEARCH SKILLS



PROBLEM SOLVING



LEADERSHIP



PUBLIC SPEAKING

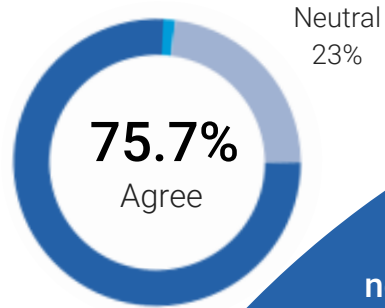


COMMUNICATION

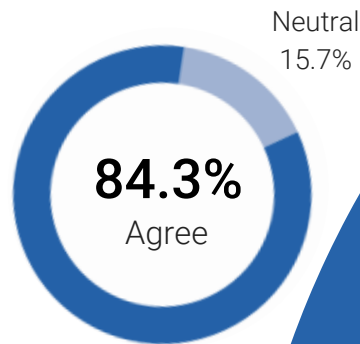
* All graphs and numbers shown here are calculated as percentages of the 811 total number of students served in the 2020-2021 school year.

† Title 1: A designation that guarantees federal financial assistance to schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families; helps ensure that all children meet state academic standards, regardless of their families' socio-economic status.

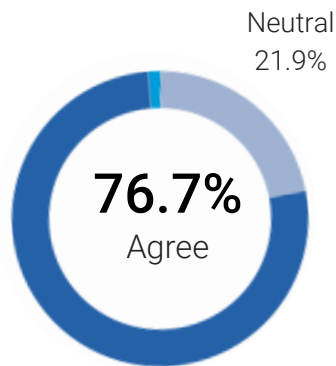
HOW DO STUDENTS SAY THEY BENEFIT?



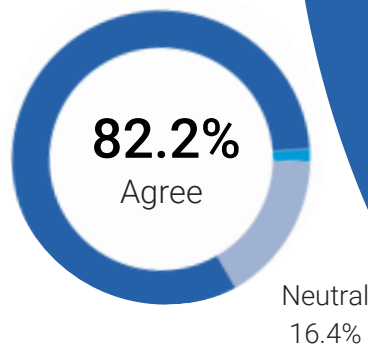
I feel more comfortable negotiating and working peacefully with others.



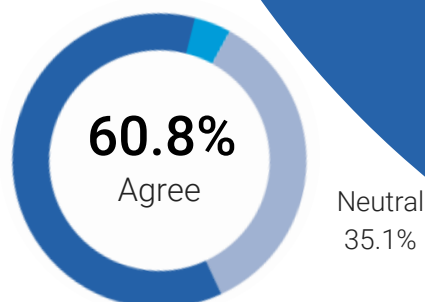
I feel that Model UN has provided me with skills that I can use in other coursework or classes.



I feel like the skills and knowledge I have gained through GCDC help feel more like a global citizen.



This Model UN conference allowed me to work with people from different backgrounds.



I feel more confident speaking in public.

TESTIMONIALS FROM THE GCDC COMMUNITY



GCDC EDUCATORS

“ One of the students' favorite aspects of GCDC were the monthly simulations. As always, middle school students really enjoy project-based and active learning situations that prepare them for real life. The opportunity to interact with students in the DMV area and experts in their field stretches students to improve in their presentation and participation.

Educator
Kenmoor Middle School

“ The MUN program initiatives you and others have led, have been a focused effort aimed at engendering this kind of human perspective, understanding, appreciation, and welcoming of others. Making this kind of learning experience available for young people is a priceless gift.

Educator
Muslim Community School

What did you enjoy the most in the session?

“ I enjoyed moving around the breakout rooms finding out the individual ideas of each delegation. It was fascinating to compare and contrast the ideas and seeing overall what everyone agreed with.

Student
9th Grade
GCDC Spring 2021
Model UN Conference

“ What I enjoyed the most was the discussion and the leadership I witnessed, the collaboration and the ideas being shared with other delegates helped me strengthen my skills.

Student
8th Grade
GCDC Spring 2021
Model UN Conference

What did you learn from the last two days?

“ What role the Peacekeepers play in the reactions of third world countries and how to address issues and pose questions that elicit deeper thinking and propositions from the other delegates.

Student
11th Grade
GCDC Spring 2021
Model UN Conference

“ I learned a substantial amount including the fact that there is more terrorism in the globe than I knew, such as the fact that Mali's terrorism problem is so bad that peacekeepers are getting killed weekly.

Student
8th Grade
GCDC Spring 2021
Model UN Conference



CONFERENCES & EVENTS

FALL MODEL UN TRAINING CONFERENCE

From November 16th to 19th, GCDC held its annual Fall Model UN Training Conference in partnership with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). This year marked GCDC's first-ever virtual conference due to restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the circumstances, GCDC was pleased to have 126 students from 11 schools attend across 4 committee sessions. For many of the students, who were in 5th to 12th grade, this was their first Model UN experience.

Following opening remarks from Dr. Ok Pannenberg, a global health specialist and UNA-NCA Advisory Council member, students began discussing their countries' views on how to best address access to vaccines and affordable medicines. After several hours of productive debate and writing, delegates completed their draft resolutions, each containing specific, creative policy proposals to ensure fair and efficient distributions of affordable medicines.

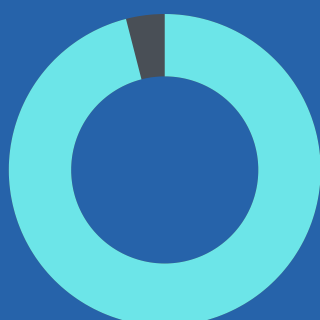
This year, the conference also featured a UN Security Council crisis committee for the first time, that served as a training session for seasoned Model UN delegates to become familiar with the fast-paced nature of crisis committees. In the committee, delegates were confronted with an Ebola epidemic. By the end, delegates passed directives, or shorter versions of resolutions, that highlighted the urgent need for containment efforts, enhanced medical delivery systems, and increased research.



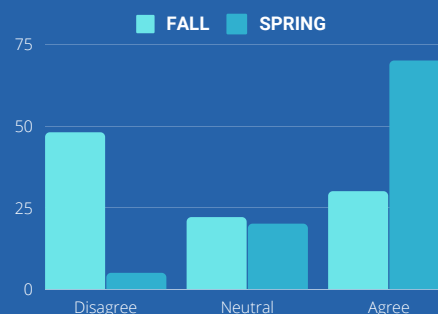
Overall, the students showed a remarkable understanding of the complexities of the issue, and were able to approach the issue from multiple perspectives. Despite their relative inexperience with the procedures of Model UN, delegates quickly grasped the necessary diplomatic language, and had a vigorous and substantive debate. Support staff and volunteers were especially encouraged to see students of all ages participating, where younger students were unafraid to advocate for their own countries and debate with older students. Throughout the day, delegates considered the real-world impact of their policies and saw how every country's participation is necessary to solve major international problems.

Virtual Model UN Sessions

This school year, GCDC offered monthly 1 hour virtual Model UN sessions. These included sessions on the mini Model UN simulations included in the GCDC Year-Round curriculum, webinars with UN partners, and workshops with individual schools. Across 7 sessions, GCDC reached 77 unique attendees, with an average attendance of 14 students.



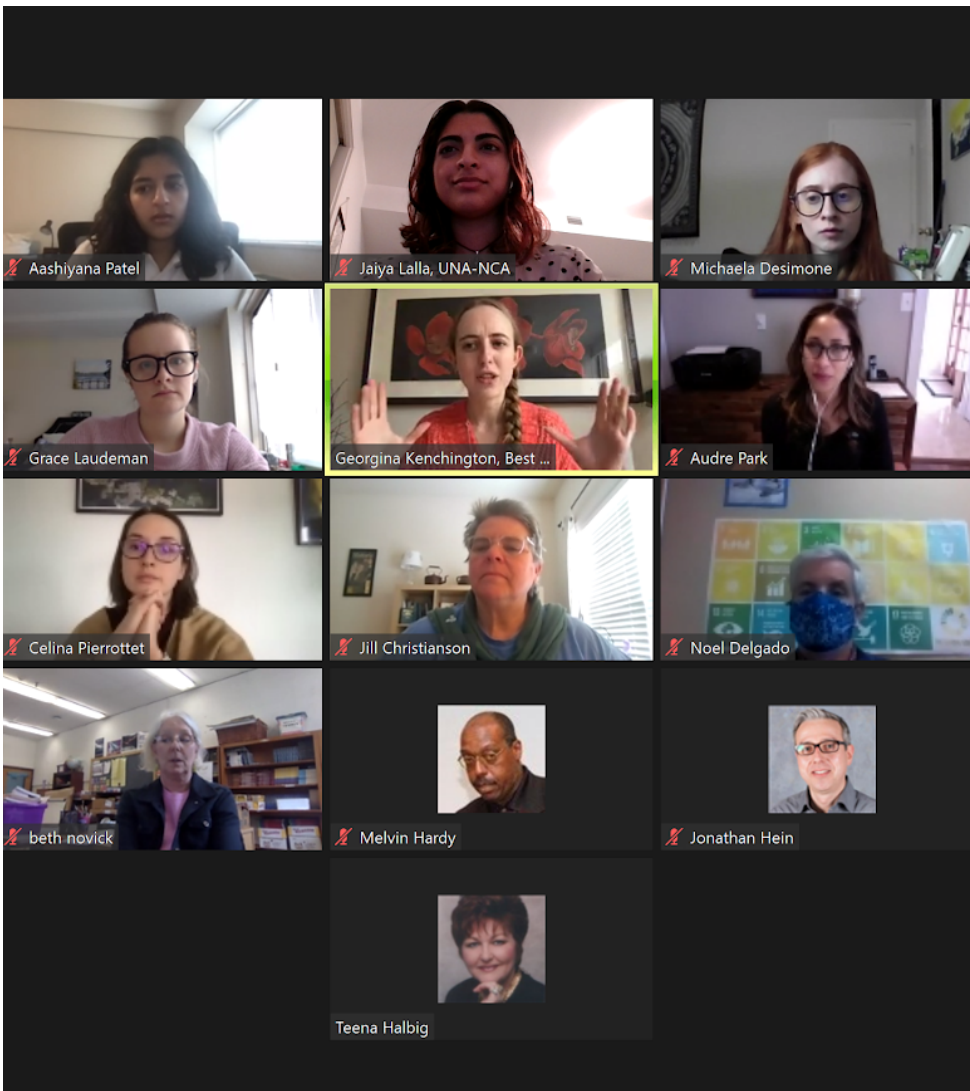
96% of students surveyed said that they would like to attend another virtual Model UN session.



Over the course of the school year, students demonstrated increased knowledge of Model UN procedures.

Student responses to: "I am familiar with Model UN procedures"

Professional Development Session With Best Delegate



On February 3, 2021, Best Delegate, a global Model United Nations education organization, graciously hosted the Global Classrooms DC Professional Development (PD) workshop virtually. The PD workshop, hosted yearly by GCDC, serves as an opportunity for educators to gain a deeper understanding of Model UN in order to set their students up for success during simulations. With support from the Rotary Foundation of Washington DC, the one hour session welcomed middle and high school teachers from private, public charter, and public schools in DC, Maryland, and Virginia, as well as from schools across the nation in New Jersey, Kentucky, and Minnesota.

Using Best Delegate's How to Prepare for Virtual Model UN Conferences on Zoom Guide, the session focused on the 10 steps to prepare students for virtual Model UN simulations and the upcoming GCDC Spring 2021 Model UN Conference.

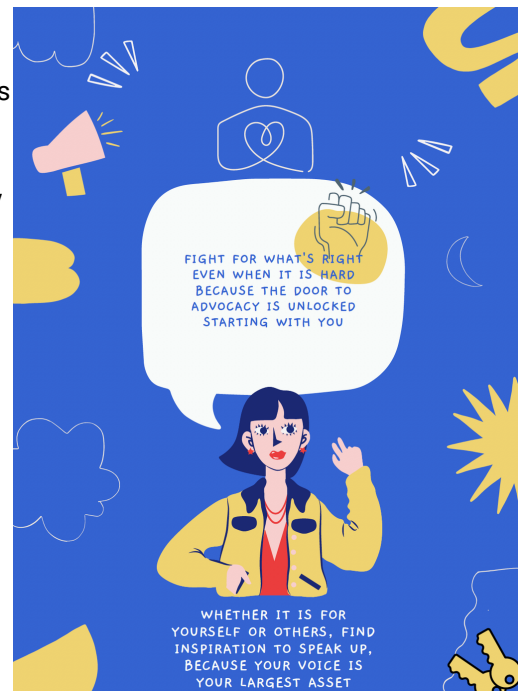
Emerging Leaders

Launched in October 2020 with UNA-NCA's Advocacy team, the Emerging Leaders program aims to provide youth leaders with the tools and support they need to develop their advocacy skills. As an Emerging Leader, students of all ages, including middle and high school as well as undergraduates, have the opportunity to connect with mentors, gain professional development skills, get published on UNA-NCA Snapshots, and advance their knowledge of sustainable development and the UN agenda.

2020-2021 Emerging Leaders

Maryam Abdul Sattar
Elisa Contreras
Nirvaan De Silva
Pavani Durbhakula
Alexios Eleftheriou
Kaya Equevilley
Minako Furukawa
Jasmine Kabira
Brayden Mahoney
Stephanie Njeri

Sinclair Ogot
Semilore Olatunde
Filip Orth
Anjali Patel
Alexandria Perez
Anneliese Raynolds
David Sherr
Andrea Terrones
Jordan Webb



Sinclair designed and created this graphic to represent her interpretation of an advocate.

PARTNERSHIP COLLABORATIONS

International Labour Organization

GCDC collaborated with the ILO for a third year in a row. As a partner, ILO sponsored a curriculum unit, held a webinar on the ILO, and sponsored a Spring Conference topic on the issue of "Safety and Health at Work" with advisory support from ILO experts at the conference. The ILO is a tripartite UN agency that works on international labor standards, social protection, and more by bringing together governments, companies, and labor unions.

International Organization for Migration

GCDC also worked with IOM for a third year. As a partner, IOM sponsored a curriculum unit, introduced students to the IOM via a webinar, and sponsored a Spring Conference topic on "Migration and Mobility". At the conference, migration experts advised and supported delegates. IOM is an intergovernmental organization that provides services to migrants and expert migration policy recommendations to governments.

UN Environment Programme

For the second time, UNEP sponsored a topic for the Spring 2021 Model UN Conference. This partnership included having environmental experts support students during the conference, as well as addressing delegates on the topic of "The Impacts of Climate and Air Quality on Diverse Communities". UNEP is a UN agency responsible for coordinating policies on sustainable development, climate change, biodiversity, and more.

SPRING MODEL UN CONFERENCE

In April 2021, **131 students, 22 educators, and 37 volunteers** gathered for the 17th annual virtual Spring Model UN Conference, in partnership with the U.S. Department of State. The COVID-19 pandemic could not prevent eager delegates from participating from their homes. The conference was opened by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and featured remarks from Deputy Assistant Secretary Jane Rhee, UNA-USA Youth Observer Dustin Liu, and Student Secretary General Eden Shaw.

Throughout the intense two-day conference, student delegates debated possible solutions to important international issues from the perspectives of their countries. They acted as diplomats advocating for their country's position across five different committees and came together to draft resolutions to solve their committees' respective challenges.

To engage conference partners and sponsors, this year's Open House took place prior to the Opening Ceremonies. Educators and guests gathered to learn about this year's program highlights and the conference's sponsors and partners.

In its 17th year and despite the pandemic, the GCDC Model UN Conference continued to provide opportunities for young students to fully immerse themselves in global education, discussing some of the world's most pressing international issues and acquiring skills to become effective global citizens.



For students who performed best at the Spring Conference, GCDC offered an exclusive Best Delegate roundtable with UN and government experts.

GCDC SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE GCDC A SUCCESS THROUGH THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL YEAR!

GLOBAL CLASSROOMS DC TEAM 2020-2021

Jaiya Lalla, Senior Global Education Manager
Ayooluwa Akintayo, Program Assistant
Jessica Duhon, Program Assistant
Celine Kusnadi, Program Assistant
Nicole Herman, Program Assistant
Elizabeth Landrum, Program Assistant
Grace Laudeman, Program Analyst
Sarah Michelle, Creative Design Assistant
Steve Mirabello, Youth Intern
Aashiyana Patel, Program Assistant
Celina Pierrottet, Program Analyst
Kaitlyn Torres, Program Assistant
Irene Qi, Youth Intern
Chao Wang, Program Analyst

PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS

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Chantilly High School
Childbirth Survival International
Education Advisory Board
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Howard University
Institute of International Education
Johns Hopkins University
Longfellow Middle School
McLean High School
Northwestern University
Women in MUN

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Amb. Steve McGann
Ellen McGovern
Carlos Molina
Judith Norton
Stephen F. Moseley
Owen Owunwanne
Gayatri Patel
Ted Piccone
Charlie and Cordelia Puttkammer
Mary Rodgers
Richard Seifman
Robert Schott
Gail Thompson
Unus Family Foundation
Henry Webster-Mellon

GCDC THANKS THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS

