



Global Classrooms DC

2021-2022 Annual Report



WHAT IS GLOBAL CLASSROOMS DC?



Founded in 2003, Global Classrooms® DC (GCDC) is the flagship education program of the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA). Through partnerships GCDC educates students in grades 5 to 12 on international issues and the work of the United Nations through Model United Nations (MUN). Partnerships with federal agencies and international organizations that provide unparalleled access, GCDC is able to impart students with incomparable learning experiences. Through simulations, webinars and conferences, students in GCDC can learn about topics related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals while being exposed to study and career opportunities in international affairs. GCDC also empowers educators by providing professional development opportunities to allow for a deeper understanding on their role in the classroom with the curriculum and Model UN.

Through partnerships, Model UN allows for students to become the young leaders of today by introducing them to global issues that are being discussed by diplomats around the world. It provides the students with a forum to not only critically think about these issues, but to also discuss and debate them with their peers - while also utilizing their research and writing skills to work with other countries to draft resolution papers on the topics that they are debating.

Like many programs, GCDC was not exempt from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the initial onset of the global pandemic, the GCDC team made the decision to transition to a full virtual environment. April 2022 marked the return of the Annual Spring GCDC Conference in person. This year also marked the implementation of the GCDC Program Evaluation, to better understand how students, educators and volunteers are interacting, learning and growing with the program - and how we can better serve students via GCDC.

After serving since June 2020, Jaiya Lalla (*left*) stepped down at the end of November 2021 from GCDC to join the South Asia Program as a Program Assistant at the Stimson Center. UNA-NCA and the GCDC team are grateful for Jaiya's contributions to the program, especially her work at transitioning GCDC into the virtual space with the advent of the COVID-19 global pandemic and sustaining key program partnerships. Sarmat Chowdhury (*right*) started as the Manger of Global Education in January 2022. He brings 15 years of Model UN experience, and had previously volunteered with both GCDC and GCI. He holds dual B.A. degrees in Government and International Politics + Conflict Analysis and Resolution and a minor in International Security from George Mason University. He has previous professional experience with three U.S. Senate Committees, The Congressional Press Corps, the U.S. State Department, the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), and the National Council on U.S. - Arab Relations (NCUSAR). On the weekends he manages a not for profit used bookstore, and serves on the Literary Task Force for the city of Alexandria, Virginia.



OUR IMPACT

Program Participants

607

Students

32

Schools

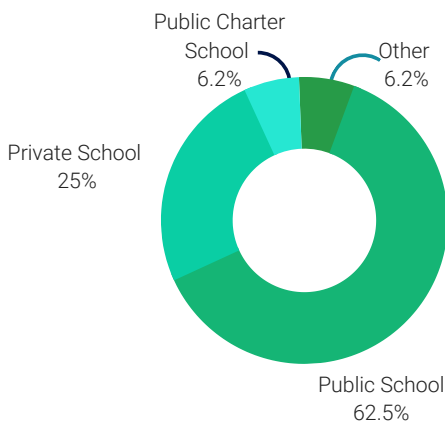
40

Volunteers

53

Educators & Parents

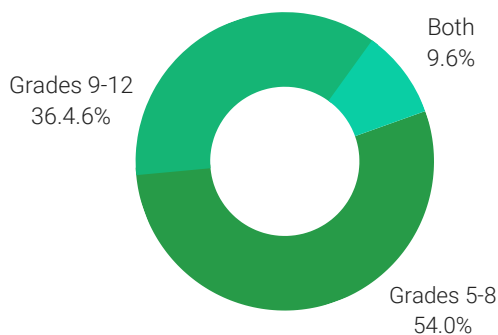
Types of Schools



25%

of students attended
Title 1 Schools †

Grade Enrollment



Where GCDC Works



28.1% OF STUDENTS

Washington, DC



50% OF STUDENTS

Maryland



15.6% OF STUDENTS

Virginia



6.3% OF STUDENTS

Outside of the DC Area

With the transition period between fully virtual and hybrid/in person events, GCDC this year was able to reach students in New Jersey, South Carolina, and California.

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



TEAMWORK



WRITING SKILLS



RESEARCH SKILLS



PROBLEM SOLVING



LEADERSHIP



PUBLIC SPEAKING

† 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.

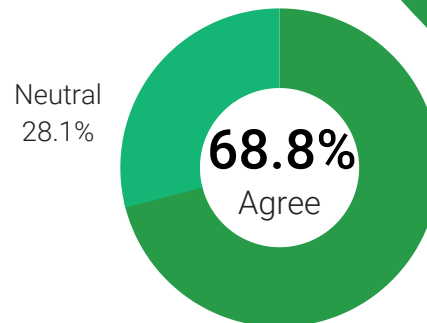
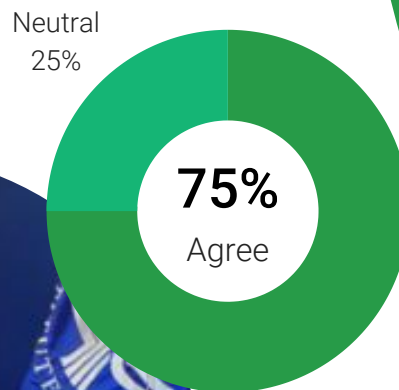
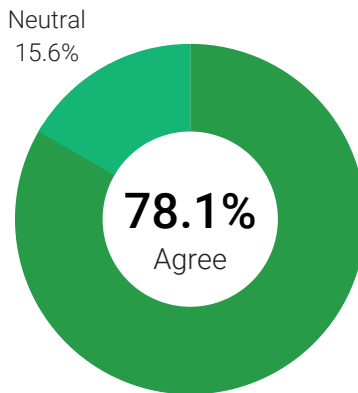
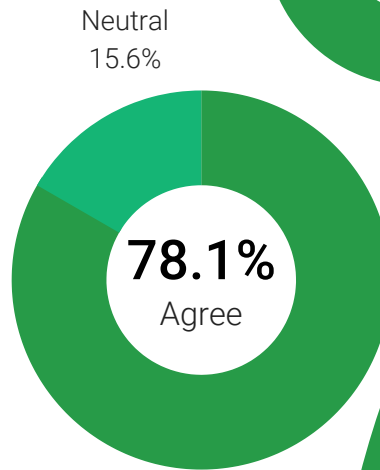
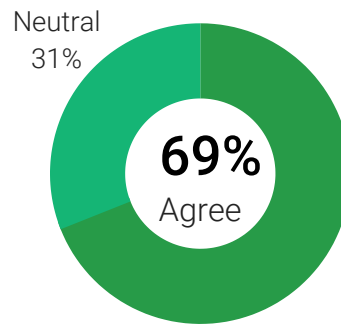
* All graphs and numbers shown here are calculated as percentages of the 607 total number of students served in the 2021-2022 school year. This final number reflects the students registered for the GCDC Year Round Program, the Fall Training Conference, and the Spring Conference.

How Do Students Say They Benefit?



Grace Volchok

MUN Secretary General - Richard Montgomery High School, MD



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.

The Model UN conferences allowed me to work with people from different backgrounds.

I feel more confident speaking in public.

“ The students seemed to get a lot out of training simulations in the GCDC curriculum. In the conference itself: This was the first large, cross-school event most of our students have attended in-person since starting at our school. Becoming comfortable (or even being uncomfortable) in this setting feels important for their socio-emotional learning as we transition to a new normal this year.



“ One of the coolest / most interesting experiences was the PAHO conference I had attended. The realism in it is crazy! You're in a real UN building ... You truly feel like a UN delegate.

“ Students enjoyed the key note speaker and the real conference-like opportunity to give speeches and engage.



How Does the Community Say They Benefit?

“ I've learned that if we can work together and put in the effort to do work together and put in the effort to do something, we can achieve it.

I thought it was really interesting how the session took after current events and we were able to debate and challenge each other's resolutions a lot.



“ I know our students really love this conference and everything about it. Thank you for all your work.

“ Thank you so much for your support throughout the year and for highlighting our schools in your newsletter. We are truly grateful to you and to the GCDC/UNA-NCA leadership for helping us organize our MUN club and for providing quality content and thought provoking topics every year.

FALL MODEL UN TRAINING CONFERENCE

November 18, 2021

On November 18th, 2021, Global Classrooms DC (GCDC), the flagship education program of the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA), held its 18th annual Fall Training Model UN Conference in partnership with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). to Concerns related to the Delta variant of COVID-19, the Fall Model UN Training Conference was held virtually for the second time. The conference began with remarks from Senior Global Education Manager, Jaiya Lalla, addressing her excitement for the **136 students** and **12 schools** represented. For many students, this was their first Model UN experience. The keynote speaker for this year was Tara Shivafard, a Political Science and Law Plus student at Brock University and founder of JUST(US)ICE. In this address, Tara shared how her Model UN journey inspired her to advocate for the SDGs.



There were three General Assembly Committees focusing on the topic, "The Lasting Effects of the Pandemic". The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Crisis Committee focused on a fictional Vaccine Hostage Situation. Ultimately, after hours of fruitful debate and writing, the country blocs completed their draft resolutions. 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.

ANNUAL SPRING GCDC CONFERENCE

April 7, 2022

On April 7th, 2022, after a two year hiatus, GCDC hosted its 18th Annual Spring GCDC Model UN Conference in person. In partnership with both the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Institute of Peace, over **200 delegates** from **17 schools** arrived at the new venue for the conference, **the United States Institute of Peace**. The Opening Ceremonies were opened by the GCDC Secretary General, **Grace Volchok**, followed by recorded remarks from **Secretary of State Antony Blinken**, which were then followed by **UNA-NCA President Paula Boland, Ambassador George E. Moose, Chair of the Board of Directors of USIP, Ambassador Michele J. Sison, Assistant Secretary of State for the IO Bureau, and Sarmat Chowdhury, Manager of Global Education at UNA-NCA.**

Six Committees were offered for delegates (**UNEP, IOM, UN Human Rights Council, ILO, and UNSC (MS + HS)**). Delegates debated a range of topics, while having access to policy advisors, who were volunteers from the U.S. State Department, the IOM, the ILO, and members of UNA-NCA. Educators also took part in a conference feedback session, while partners were invited to the GCDC Open House to talk about their work with the program. Finally, the U.S. Mission of the ILO was generous enough to provide swag bags for all of the delegates that were in attendance at the conference.



PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

International Labour Organization

GCDC collaborated with the ILO for a fourth year in a row on a topic for the Spring 2022 Model UN Conference. Students had researched the topic, "The Global Call for Action for a Human - Centered Recovery". In addition, GCDC and ILO created a year round unit. The ILO is a tripartite UN agency that works on international labor standards, social protection, and more by bringing together government, companies, and labor unions.

International Organization for Migration

GCDC also worked with IOM for a fourth time for the Spring 2020 Model UN Conference. Delegates were able to debate how countries can provide "Migrant Access to Global Humanitarian Aid." In addition, GCDC and IOM created a year-round migration unit and mini-MUN simulation. IOM is an intergovernmental organization that provides services to migrants and expert migration policy recommendations to governments.

Evaluation Without Borders

For the first time, GCDC decided to work with Evaluation Without Borders (EWB) to design evaluation models to measure the metrics of participation and engagement among GCDC students and educators regarding the GCDC Year Round Curriculum and the Model UN conferences. Evaluation Without Borders is a program of Washington Evaluators, a pro-bono service that aids non-profit organizations in their efforts.

Fielding Inaugural GCDC Delegation to NHSMAL

On April 29th - 30th, 2022, the GCDC staff fielded its inaugural delegation to a competitive simulation conference. The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations (NCUSAR) hosted the National High School Model Arab League (NHSMAL) at Georgetown Preparatory School in Bethesda, MD. GCDC was able to take two students (Jeffery and Sebastian) from Suitland High School (a Title I public high school in Prince George's County Public Schools in Maryland) to the conference where they represented the Sultanate of Oman in the Joint Defense Council.

The GCDC delegation engaged in two days of intense debates with other member states of the League of Arab States, and both Jeffery and Sebastian enjoyed utilizing GCDC skills at the conference. They ended up winning the Distinguished Delegation Award (second place) at the conference, and for the 2023 NHSMAL Conference, Sebastian was selected to serve as the Assistant Secretary General for the conference, ensuring that GCDC would be returning to Nationals in 2023!



GCDC SUPPORTERS & SPONSORS

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE GCDC A SUCCESS THIS YEAR!

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2021 - 2022 Program Supporters

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Henry Webster-Mellon

2021 - 2022 Program Partners

International Labour Organization

International Organization for Migration

Pan American Health Organization

U.S. Department of State

U.S. Institute of Peace

Washington Evaluators (EWB)



Global Classrooms DC Team 2021-2022

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Michelle Leguia, GCDC Creative Design Assistant

