



# Global Classrooms DC

## 2019-2020 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). GCDC educates students in grades 5 to 12 on international issues and the work of the United Nations. We use a variety of channels to accomplish this goal, whether through original global education curriculum created by the GCDC team with support from experts in the field, Model UN simulations for classrooms, or large-scale events hosted in DC. Students learn about critical issues happening in their world while strengthening key skills like public speaking, research, negotiation, and writing that they will need in college and their future careers.

Model UN has the capacity to empower students across all levels. As a simulation activity, it allows students to serve as diplomats, reflecting their real-life counterparts in committees, such as the UN Environment Programme, the UN Security Council, and more. As representatives of a country, they discuss critical issues with other delegates and also are responsible for researching, writing, and thinking of creative solutions from their country's perspective. Students not only learn how to advocate for themselves, like a debate team, but also must work together to compromise and find solutions.

The GCDC program uses a two-pronged approach of developing skills while at the same time learning about topics related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, like education, climate change, gender equality, ending poverty, and more. Over the years, this method has successfully reached thousands of DC-area students, and for many, has served as their first exposure to the world.

After serving since August 2017, Nicole Bohannon (*at right*) stepped down at the end of this school year from GCDC to pursue a graduate degree. UNA-NCA and GCDC stakeholders are grateful for Nicole's contributions to the program. Jaiya Lalla (*at left*) started as the GCDC Deputy Manager in January 2020 to get a full training before assuming the director role in June 2020. Jaiya served as a GCDC Program Assistant in Fall 2019, and holds an undergraduate degree in International Affairs from the George Washington University, focusing on security policy and Asia. She has previous professional experience in the U.S. Senate, at the Peace Corps headquarters, the U.S. Department of State, Women's Watch-China, and the National Endowment for Democracy. She also studied in Beijing at Peking University in the GW China Studies Institute program. At GW, Jaiya was heavily involved in the faith-based and interfaith communities, focusing on the intersection of religion and international affairs, and the South Asian community as part of a Bollywood dance group.



# OUR IMPACT

## Program Participants

915

Students

44

Groups/Schools

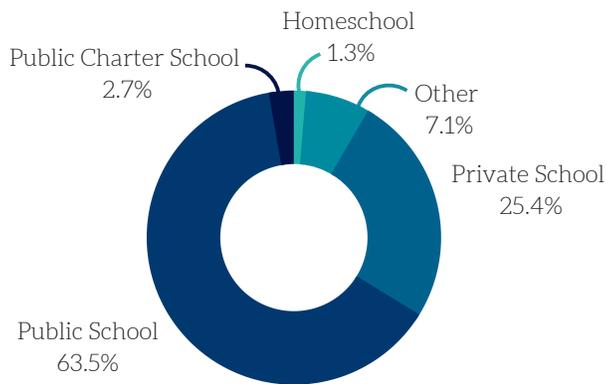
39

Volunteers

91

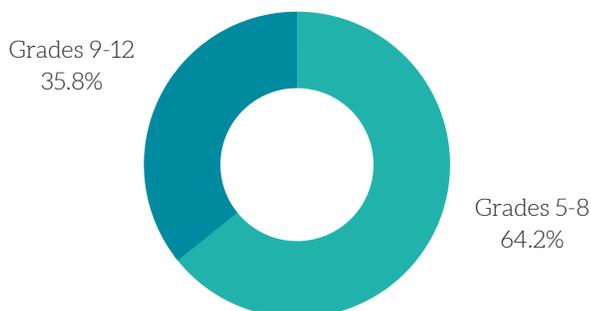
Teachers & Parents

## Types of Schools



**30.05%** of students attended Title 1 Schools †

## Grade Enrollment



## Where GCDC Works



**32.2%** of students  
Washington, DC



**31.6%** of students  
Maryland



**17%** of students  
Virginia



**19.2%** of students  
Outside of the DC Area

GCDC also reached students in California, the Cayman Islands, China, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Lebanon, and Vietnam

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



TEAMWORK



WRITING SKILLS



RESEARCH SKILLS



PROBLEM SOLVING



LEADERSHIP

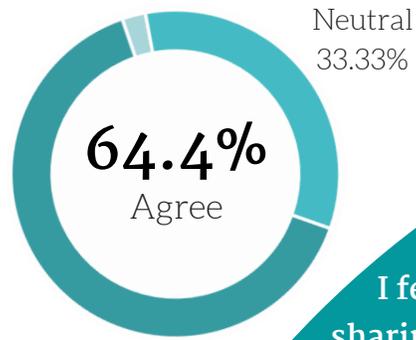


PUBLIC SPEAKING

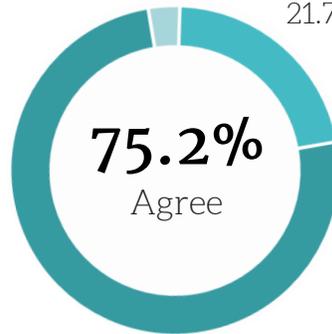
† **Title 1**: A designation that guarantees federal financial assistance to schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families; helps ensure that all children meet state academic standards, regardless of their families' socio-economic status.

\* All graphs and numbers shown here are calculated as percentages of the 915 total number of students served in the 2019-2020 school year. This final number reflects the students registered for the Spring 2020 Model Conference.

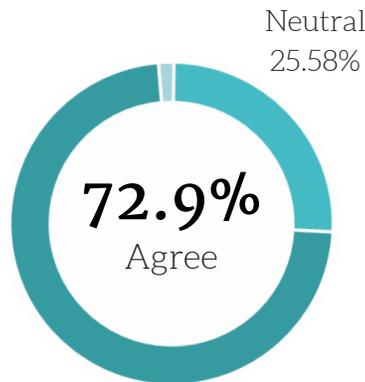
# How Do Students Say They Benefit?



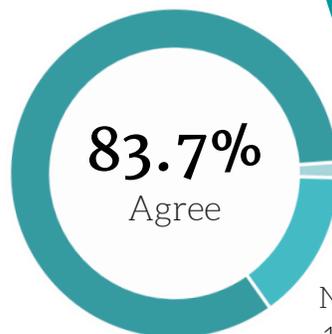
I feel more confident sharing my opinions with others.



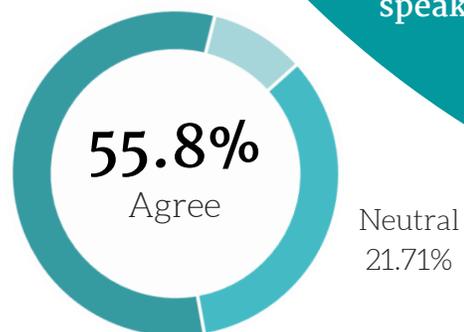
I feel more comfortable negotiating and working peacefully with others.



I feel more confident applying critical thinking and problem solving to international events.



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



I feel more confident speaking in public.

“ 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.

*Teacher  
Muslim Community School (MD)*



“ 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.

*Student  
Alice Deal Middle School (DC)*

“ From that moment, I realized that even though I may not know [everything], I should take the challenge and play the role because that experience would make me grow.

*Student  
International High School  
at Langley Park (MD)*



## HOW DOES THE COMMUNITY SAY THEY BENEFIT?

“ Model UN means the journey without an end. I am always learning something new, always meeting new people, discovering how to debate and diplomatically solve conflicts affecting the world. I've discovered how to grow from constructive criticism instead of bottling up my feelings of being a failure. But honestly, in essence, MUN is just plain, old, FUN.

*Student  
Alice Deal Middle School (DC)*



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

*Teacher  
Tuscarora High School (VA)*

“ 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.

*Parent  
Bells Mill Elementary School (MD)*

# FALL MODEL UN TRAINING CONFERENCE

November 21, 2019



The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) hosted our 16th annual Fall Model UN Training Conference. The Training Conference is designed for schools and groups who are new to GCDC programming and to Model UN. We were pleased to have 12 schools from previous years return while also welcoming two new schools to our program, including a home-schooled delegation. The majority of students, who ranged from 5th to 10th grade, had never done Model UN before and were putting the skills they had



learned into practice for the first time. Throughout the day, 166 students represented 80 countries to discuss global malnutrition. Following remarks by Dr. Sonja Caffé, the current Regional Adolescent Health Advisor at PAHO, students discussed their countries' views on how best to address global malnutrition. In their speeches, delegates highlighted how malnutrition affected both their own countries and the international community as a whole, and emphasized the need for international cooperation to find solutions. As each country made their views known and proposed new ideas, it became clear that there was broad consensus on the urgency of the issue. The proposals of

these delegates were ranging from addressing how poverty is tied to malnutrition to proposing a data-driven approach to better understand how each country is affected by malnutrition. Overall, the students showed a remarkable understanding of the complexities of malnutrition, and were able to approach the issue from multiple perspectives. Delegates also showed themselves to be well-researched, and many of them were able to cite statistics that they had prepared ahead of time. Despite their relative inexperience with the procedures of Model UN, delegates quickly grasped the necessary diplomatic language, and had a vigorous and substantive debate on the difficulties surrounding solutions to malnutrition. Support staff and volunteers were especially encouraged to see students of all ages participating, with younger students being 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 how every country's participation is necessary to solve major international problems.

## SUMMER 2019 MODEL UN WORKSHOP

July 15 - 17, 2019

Early each morning, students poured into the library at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Olney, MD for the second annual Model UN Workshop. For three days, the workshop's aim was to help students develop fundamental academic and life skills, and to prepare them to become active participants in Model UN simulations and global conversations. Participation in the workshop this year more than tripled, growing from 11 students last year to 36 this year. Multiple nationalities were represented, as students from Vietnam, China, and the USA attended the three-day workshop. Both students and staff experienced the satisfaction of working together to address global problems, especially across cultural barriers.



# PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

## International Labour Organization

GCDC collaborated with the ILO for a second year in a row on a topic for the Spring 2020 Model UN Conference. Students had researched how countries can “Integrate a Just Transition Towards a Green Economy”, or moving towards a green economy while protecting workers. 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 second time for the Spring 2020 Model UN Conference. Delegates were ready to debate how countries can “Protect Against Forced Migration Due to Conflict”. 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.

## UN Environment Programme

For the first time, UNEP was a sponsor for the Spring 2020 Model UN Conference. Our partnership included having environmental experts support our students during the conference, as well as addressing delegates directly on the topic of Responsible Consumption. UNEP is a UN agency responsible for coordinating policies on sustainable development, climate change, biodiversity, and more.

## Adapting to the COVID-19 Crisis

On March 17, UNA-NCA announced that, due to increased health concerns, the Spring 2020 Model UN Conference would be cancelled. The event was originally scheduled for April 21. GCDC had hit nearly 80% of total capacity for the conference, with several weeks left in the registration period and continued interest from schools who had not signed up yet. In fact, GCDC experienced the largest registration surge by February in recent program history. We came to this extremely difficult decision after talking to our partners at the U.S. Department of State and Pan American Health Organization, as well as consulting with teachers, parents, and staffers. GCDC committed to refunding schools who requested their fees back. We have always prioritized our students, teachers, parents, and administrators, especially during difficult times. Even though it was not an easy decision to come to and took an enormous amount of financial planning, we were successfully able to refund schools’ fees to continue serving the underserved in our community. In light of the cancellation, GCDC remained committed to providing global education engagement opportunities. Using distance learning resources, we coordinated Virtual Model UN sessions for students who already prepared for the Spring Conference and organized a professional development session for our educators. We also used the time normally spent preparing for the Spring Conference to begin updating the 2020-2021 curriculum for the new school year. Additionally, we coordinated with different partners and promoted their work throughout the spring semester, especially as related to the COVID-19 pandemic.



# GCDC SUPPORTERS & SPONSORS

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

## Sponsors

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Dr. Iqbal Unus  
UN Environment Programme  
U.S. Department of State  
Walter A. Bloedorn Foundation  
Melissa Wolfe



## Global Classrooms DC Team 2019–2020

Nicole Bohannon, Global Education Managing Director  
Sunshine González, Program Assistant  
Jaiya Lalla, Global Classrooms DC Deputy Manager  
Sara Smith, Program Assistant  
Yiting (Tina) Wang, Program Assistant  
Nayana Celine Xavier, Youth Intern  
Caleb Yip, Program Assistant



## CONTACT US!

2000 P St. NW  
Suite 540  
Washington, DC 20036  
[gcdc@unanca.org](mailto:gcdc@unanca.org)  
202.223.6092

## Program Volunteers

The George Washington University  
Georgetown University  
Howard University  
Langley High School  
Oakton High School  
University of South Florida

All  
photos  
credited to  
Jonah  
McDevitt