



Annual Report 2014 - 2015



In 2014, UNA-NCA's Board of Directors approved a new strategic plan to guide the organization's activities in carrying out its mission and vision. The main pillars of this strategic plan are outlined below, as well as key, but far from all-encompassing, highlights for how UNA-NCA has moved forward in accomplishing these objectives. The plan will continue to guide UNA-NCA throughout 2015 and beyond.

GOAL #1

Build Support for the United Nations and Connect the National Capital Area's Residents and Organizations to the Work of the United Nations

12+
specialized UN agencies highlighted

3x
More social media followers than the previous year

25+
hosted events from June 2014 to May 2015

GOAL #3

Build a Comprehensive Partnership Network

80+
Partner organizations collaborated between June 2014 and May 2015



GOAL #2

Enhance Membership and Intergenerational Engagement

50%
Membership made up of young professionals and students

14%
More student and teacher participation in GCDC program than the previous year.



GOAL #4

Create an Increasingly Efficient, Integrated and Financially Stable Organization

- ✓ Ended fiscal year with a surplus and built reserve funds
- ✓ Increased number of corporate sponsorships
- ✓ Assessed and improved organization's governance structure

United Nations Day

From the League of Nations to the UN Today

On October 24, UNA-NCA hosted “Celebrating UN Day - From the League of Nations to the UN Today” at the President Woodrow Wilson House to commemorate the 69th Anniversary of the United Nations.

Featured guests included the Honorable Bathsheba Nell Crocker, newly appointed Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of International Organization Affairs.

Hosted in the gallery featuring artwork from scenes of World War I, the main program included speeches from Dr. Walter Dorn, Professor of the Defense Studies at the Royal Military College and Dr. John M. Cooper, historian, author and educator from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Their speeches, respectively, acknowledged the history of President Wilson’s role in the founding of an international cooperative body and underscored his legacy as an essential force in the League of Nations that laid the foundation for the United Nation.

The event served as the capstone of a busy UN Month that also included a happy hour to mark

Eleanor Roosevelt’s birthday, an event on journalism safety, the Fall Career Dinner series, and a conversation on the relevance of the UN in today’s international environment.



Promoting UN Agencies

One of UNA-NCA’s ongoing objectives is to facilitate events, discussions, and meetings that promote the work of various specialized United

Nations agencies. This focus on the accomplishments of UN agencies serves to educate and inspire our members, while informing them about opportunities in these fields and the lesser-known work of the UN.

This has led to events with the Secretary General from The International Telecommunication Union, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and representatives of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

We also hosted representatives from the International Civil Aviation Organization in a particularly relevant discussion about the disappearance of Malaysian Airlines Flight 370, and the UN and aviation industry’s roles in preventing such disappearances in the future.

Last October, we were also proud to host Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the

United Nations, in honor of the 69th Anniversary of the United Nations at a standing-room only event at the United Nations Foundation building. UNA-NCA will continue our focus on specialized UN agencies well into 2015 and beyond.

Sustainable Development Goals Task Force

UNA-NCA's Board approved concrete follow up steps to the Baltimore consultation (see below). This includes the creation of a Task Force to collaborate with UNA-NCA program leaders to facilitate inclusion of sustainable development goal (SDG) topics in UNA-NCA programs, conduct outreach to more than 300 organizations to engage new audiences, and to work to expand UNA partnerships with international affairs and development organizations.



Cities for CEDAW Initiatives

In February, the UNA-NCA Board voted to form an ad hoc committee for the purpose of supporting a citywide legislation that embraces the principles of the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). UNA-NCA's DC for CEDAW initiative held an event to announce the initiative, and reached out to organizations in DC to join us in showing support for the legislation. UNA-NCA has also participated in social media campaigns about the initiative as part of International Women's Day, and will continue to share updates on local legislation with UNA-NCA members.

In March, Councilmember David Grosso introduced legislation supporting CEDAW and the DC Council unanimously endorsed the legislation.

Baltimore Consultation on the SDGs

UNA-NCA was selected to be one of 33 UNA chapters to host a community consultation on the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The consultation was held on November 1 at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. The consultation brought together over 160 representatives of civil society and community based organizations, universities, businesses, government leaders, and graduate and undergraduate students from local universities. Participants discussed how the global goals apply to the needs of local Baltimore communities and their envisioned future, and the SDGs as a whole. As set out in reports by the UN Secretary-General and summarized for the UNA-NCA audience, the issues covered included poverty, equity, human development, climate change, and financing and governance.



UNA-NCA Celebrates Human Rights Achievements at Annual Human Rights Day Reception

Our 17th annual Human Rights Day Reception took place on December 12 in the Caucus Room of the Cannon House Building and celebrated the inspiring accomplishments of four distinguished human rights leaders. This year's honorees represented a diverse powerhouse of individuals who uphold the principles of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, united by an unwavering dedication to their causes and a belief in the rights of all citizens to live in a world without oppression.

Award Recipients

Juan Mendez, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture and Professor of Human Rights Law in Residence at American University's Washington College of Law, received the UNA-NCA Louis B. Sohn Award.

Sanam Naraghi-Anderlini, co-founder of the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), received the UNA-NCA Perdita Huston Award.

Suzanne Nossel, Executive Director of PEN American Center and former Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs in the Department of State, received a special UNA-NCA Award for the Use of Diplomacy to Advance Human Rights.

Terri Lee Freeman, former President of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region, received the UNA-NCA Distinguished Community Human Rights Award.



Young Professionals Career Dinner Series

In 2014-2015, UNA-NCA's Young Professionals program held two editions of its Career Dinner Series. Each edition began with a networking reception, followed by a keynote address and intimate dinners hosted in the private homes or businesses of individuals. The receptions for both were held at the UN Foundation in Washington, DC. Linda Jamison, Vice President for Global Talent Development and Human Resources of the US Institute of Peace, served as Fall's keynote, while William Davis, Executive Director, U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, engaged audiences as the keynote for spring 2015. Each series was attended by over 100 young professionals and featured distinguished speakers who shared their stories and experiences in various fields such as technology, global health, international development, and policy, among others, and offered salient advice based on their own career paths. The Spring series also served as the first big event organized by the newly re-launched Young Professionals Committee that gained new leadership in early 2015.



Global Classrooms DC

UNA-NCA's signature global education program engaged 3,087 students this year through year-round programming, including curriculum resources, educational workshops, teacher trainings, and Model United Nations conferences. Through these activities, students learned about important global challenges while developing skills in public speaking, conflict-resolution, and critical thinking that will prepare them to be college-ready by graduation. Students this year focused on the situation in Ukraine, Empowering Rural Women, Food Security, Climate Change, and Social Responsibility and the Private Sector.

GCDC also supported teachers with a series of teacher development training and webinars, and encouraged participation in the teachers advisory group.



In addition, GCDC lent classroom support to over 57 participating schools with the Model UN Mentor program.

Over 115 volunteers from Georgetown University, Howard University, George Washington University, and American University went into the classrooms to guide teachers through Model UN committees and to lead student committees at conferences.

This Year's GCDC Highlights

November 24

Middle schooler training conference on Cyber Security at the Pan American Health Organization

April 28

Annual Model UN Conference at the US Department of State, which hosted over 600 students from public and private schools in the DC area.

Graduate Fellows Program

UNA-NCA's Fellows program, which ran from January - April, included fellows from Japan, Iran, Kosovo, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Peru, among others. Two of our students had studied at Oxford, one a former state prosecutor and the other an ice skating champion.

The course covered an introduction to the Millennium Development Goals; the opportunity to learn from a renowned US climate adviser; a discussion on the functions of the UN Security Council with an American University professor; and further insight into crucial issues regarding the UN Sustainable Development Goals such as female poverty and conflict resolutions. Fellows participated in a forum on the MDGs and attended Members Day at the UN headquarters in February. One of our students had the opportunity to meet the Secretary General!! We concluded a rewarding semester with a celebration at the Mott House.



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