

For Immediate Release



## **Upcoming Model UN Conference for Middle School Students Celebrates International Diplomacy**

New York - 3/19/2019

From March 28-30, 1,550 Middle school students led by 200 advisors from 85 schools will attend the Global Classrooms International (GCI) Model UN conference for middle schoolers at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in midtown, with the closing ceremony on taking place at the General Assembly of the UN Headquarters on Saturday March 30. The GCI Middle School conference is the largest middle school Model UN conference in the world — with participating students hailing from China, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Turkey, Uganda, United States and many other countries.

During the conference, students will form 13 committees and simulate the diplomacy processes of the United Nations by debating a wide range of global topics such as the empowerment of indigenous women, tackling the Cholera crisis and implementing international standards for green economics. These simulations allow the delegates to have a memorable Model UN experience by training them in the protocols and procedures of the United Nations that empowers them to forge key leadership qualities and ensuring their successes in an increasingly interconnected and competitive international arena.

“Since 2005, LAU annually celebrates a culture of youth leadership in creative diplomacy, and after acquiring the Global Classrooms International MUN from the UNA - USA, LAU has been organizing mega conferences in New York,” said Elie Samia, Assistant Vice President for Outreach and Civic Engagement for LAU’s Division of Student Development and Enrollment Management. “This flagship program strongly believes that MUN programs are essential for internal and international security due to its adherence to the UN culture of peace and development.”

Beginning in 2016, LAU has headed the esteemed GCI brand in New York City. Simulation programs such as GCI are part of the United Nations larger efforts to establish peace, to secure human rights, and to enable all people to live in dignity by imparting the UN culture onto future generations.

The middle schoolers also will have the chance to interact with key figures in the fields of diplomacy and international relations, including Mr. Elliott Harris, UN Assistant Secretary-General Chief Economist, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Ms. Oisika Chakrabarti, Head, Media, and Web Editorial, Public Relations and Communications, UN Women, and Ms. Tracy Brown, Liaison/Public Information Officer & Deputy Director International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Liaison Office in New York at the United Nations.

##

**For more information, background, and a schedule of events, please contact:**

T: 212-203-4333 E: [ghina.harb@lau.edu.lb](mailto:ghina.harb@lau.edu.lb) or [elida.jbeili@lau.edu](mailto:elida.jbeili@lau.edu)

### **About Global Classrooms International Middle School Model UN**

[Global Classrooms International Middle School Model UN](#) is the flagship education program of **Lebanese American University (LAU)**. Operated by the United Nations Association of the United States of America for the past 15 years, 2016 ushered in a new era, as the Lebanese American University, a partner of the United Nations Association operating a Model UN program of its own in Beirut since 2005, took over the prestigious Global Classrooms International brand in New York City. Two international conferences in New York City are held, one conference for middle school students and a separate conference for high school students. These conferences have engaged more than 4,000 student leaders coming from around the world, including Ivy League universities, and more than 48,000 high school and middle school students coming from 250 schools in 20 countries. The purpose of the program is to bring the UN culture of global awareness and to bridge the education gap by allowing students to step into the shoes of ambassadors in order to negotiate with fellow delegates current world issues, to resolve conflicts, and to navigate the UN's rules of procedures.

### **About LAU**

The Lebanese American University is a leading nonsectarian private higher education institution based in Lebanon, with a satellite campus in New York City. It was founded by an American missionary in 1835 who established a school for girls during the time of the Ottoman Empire, marking an important shift in education for women in the surrounding region. It operates under a charter from the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York and is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

**Stay up to date on LAU news and events. Follow us on:**

Website: [lau.edu.lb](http://lau.edu.lb)

Facebook: [facebook.com/LebaneseAmericanUniversity](https://facebook.com/LebaneseAmericanUniversity)

Twitter: [twitter.com/LebAmUniv](https://twitter.com/LebAmUniv)

**Join the conversation: #GCIMSMUN19 and #CelebrateDiplomacy**