

For Immediate Release



Upcoming Model UN Conference for High School Students Instills Crucial Leadership Skills

New York - 4/24/2018

From May 10-12, 1,550 high school students led by 200 advisors from 87 schools will attend the GCI Model UN conference for high schoolers. The participating students hailing from China, Germany, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Qatar, South Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States of America, will be able to broaden their diplomatic horizons.

During the conference, students will form 16 committees and simulate the negotiation processes at the United Nations through discussing a wide range of global topics such as the legality of drones as weapons of war, election monitoring, and greenhouse gases emissions and the 2020 challenge. These exercises will allow the students to cultivate qualities and traits such as self-confidence, courage, empathy and humility that exemplify great leaders.

“Young diplomats do learn, unlearn and re-learn throughout their lives. The cultural promenade of the Model UN program is paved with the flora and the fauna of diversity, peace, ethics, justice, and most importantly hope that a better future can be attained and sustained. Model UN shuns and reduces cultural prejudices, broadens intellectual horizons and bestows leadership skills on the students of today and the decision makers, agenda setters and thought controllers of tomorrow,” said Elie Samia, Assistant Vice President for Outreach and Civic Engagement for LAU’s Division of Student Development and Enrollment Management. “LAU’s partnership with the UNA-USA aims at expanding the reach of the Global Classrooms program to youth from all over the globe.”

Global Classrooms International (GCI) Model UN is the flagship education program of the Lebanese American University. Operated since 1999 by the United Nations Association of the United States of America, since 2016, LAU now heads 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 high schoolers also will have the chance to interact with key figures in the fields of diplomacy and international relations, including Mr. Elliott Harris, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Ms. Marie Paule Roudil, Director of UNESCO NY and Dr. Nata Menabde, Director of WHO NY.

##

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

T: 212-203-4333 E: ghina.harb@lau.edu.lb or elida.jbeili@lau.edu

About Global Classrooms International Model UN

Global Classrooms International Model UN is the flagship education program of the Lebanese American University. Operated by the United Nations Association of the United States of America for the past 15 years, 2016 ushered in a new era as LAU, a partner of the UNA-USA, operating a model UN program of its own in Beirut since 2005, took over the prestigious GCI in New York. 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 over 48,000 high school and middle school students from 250 schools in 20 countries.

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

Facebook: facebook.com/LebaneseAmericanUniversity

Twitter: twitter.com/LebAmUniv

Join the conversation: #GCIHSMUN18 and #LeadershipExemplified.