



Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation (CECF)

2017 Better Understanding for a Better World

March 22-26, 2017
Phoenix, AZ



- What:** 2017 Better Understanding for a Better World Conference
When: March 22-26, 2017
Where: Hotel (*tbc*)
Who: CECF (<http://www.cecf-net.org/>) and the following participating institutions:
- The United Methodist Church (*tbc*)
 - Islamic Community Center of Phoenix (*tbc*)
 - Synagogue (*tbc*)

CECF is offering its 29th annual BUBW Conference in Phoenix, AZ to American high school students and International Exchange students studying in the U.S. under the auspices of the Department of State's exchange programs.

Overview:

Better Understanding for a Better World (BUBW) began in 2006 with an annual conference in Orlando, FL. In 2008, CECF expanded this unique opportunity and included an annual conference in Baltimore, MD. After two more thriving years of BUBW Conferences in both Orlando and Baltimore, CECF expanded once more to include an annual BUBW Conference in San Diego, CA in 2010. These conferences were developed to give American high school students and exchange students currently studying in the U.S. the opportunity to meet students of diverse backgrounds. They have been tremendously successful each year and the students benefit in ways that are truly impressive.

Youth are the hope of each nation, and the future of the world's civilization is soon to rest in their hands. The most pressing issue they face today is how to view the **"Other"**, people who are different from you. CECF aims to transcend the fear of the "other" through multicultural and interfaith dialogue and mutual respect and understanding.

Conference Vision / Mission / Objectives:

- Facilitate mutual understanding and appreciation between students from diverse regional, economic, social, religious, cultural and ethnic backgrounds
- Discuss stereotypes about the "other" and their impact
- Learn about and discuss the practice of religion and faith in a pluralistic society with the objective of promoting tolerance, mutual respect, and an awareness of common values
- Introduce various aspects of leadership, including those involving business and entrepreneurship
- Forge ties of friendship between American high school students and students from around the world

While the focus of the conference is principally on Judaism, Christianity and Islam, participation is open to students of all faith backgrounds, as well as those who may not be active in a particular faith tradition.

Follow up after the Conference:

Students will be encouraged to maintain contact with each other and make a presentation in their schools or communities on the issues discussed during the conference.

American and Exchange Student Participants and Selection:

American and International high school students are encouraged to attend. International exchange students represent the following programs sponsored by the Department of State: Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX), Youth Exchange and Study (YES), Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX), American Serbia and Montenegro Youth Leadership Exchange (A-SMYLE) and other private exchange programs. Exchange students will be selected by their sponsoring organizations and American students will be nominated by a staff member of their respective high schools or community /youth group.

Brief Conference Outline:

Wednesday, March 22: (Arrival, Dinner Social, Ice Breaking Activities and Orientation)

- **Arrival - Students are requested to arrive between 3:00 – 6:00 PM.**

Thursday, March 23: (International Youth Summit focusing on Diversity, Cultural Understanding and Leadership)

- Main address and Interactive Discussion about “The World Today: The Family of Adam and Eve,” elaborating on the need for “Crossing the Divide.”
- An International Youth Summit (IYS) to discuss the importance of:
 - developing an atmosphere of belonging
 - cultural understanding, sensitivity and respect
 - problems youth face around the world and ways to resolve these conflicts
- Workshop on “Leadership and the Importance of Youth Involvement”
- Student Country Presentations by students who represent various continents and share a short informative ppt

Friday, March 24: (Interfaith Visits and Panel Discussion, followed by Free-Time)

- Visit local places of worship like a church, synagogue, and mosque. Students will gain first-hand experience of the similarities and differences within the house of Abraham.
- Panel Discussion
- Free-Time / Sports in the Park

Saturday, March 25: (Global Citizenship & Networking Session, Sight-seeing & Picnic, and Banquet & Certificate Ceremony)

- Global Citizenship and Networking for the Future
- Sight-seeing, Picnic and Sports
- Banquet and Certificate Ceremony

Sunday, March 26: (Wrap Up & Departure)

- **Departure - Students are requested to schedule their departing flights between 09:00 AM – 1:00 PM.**

Conference price includes:

- Conference Registration
- Lodging at the Hotel (*tba*) – 4 nights
- Conference Meals beginning with dinner on Wednesday, March 22nd through breakfast on Sunday, March 26th
- International Youth Summit (IYS) and Conference Workshop
- Interfaith Program and Panel Discussion
- Conference Session
- Sight-seeing, Picnic and Sports (*tbc*)
- Banquet, Student Performances and Certificates Ceremony
- **Transportation** throughout the program, including transportation from the **PHX Airport** to the hotel on Wednesday, April 22nd and back to the **PHX Airport** on Sunday, April 26th

**For more information or to register –
contact us at cecf1@aol.com or call 410-944-6077**