



Civilizations Exchange &

Cooperation Foundation (CECF)

Better Understanding for a Better World (BUBW) Conferences

(Leadership, Intercultural and Interfaith Program)

Participate with high school students from around the world!



REGISTER NOW

2021 BUBW Conferences:

Orlando – Feb 3-7

San Diego – Mar 3-7

Baltimore – Apr 7-11

www.cecf-net.org

WATCH THIS VIDEO

<http://vimeo.com/68963013>

Help Us Change the World!

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What is BUBW?



BUBW is a 5 day intense and interactive, fun-filled conference held in three major US cities; Orlando, FL, Phoenix, AZ and Baltimore, MD. BUBW is a unique one of a kind conference offered by CECF targeted for international exchange students who are in the U.S. through programs funded by the U.S. Department of State and high-achieving American high school students. This program is specifically designed to cultivate leadership skills in high school students from all around the world. BUBW offers trainings in the following areas:

- *Multicultural Competency*

- *Leadership Development*

- *Civic Engagement*



- *Diversity Trainings*

- *Interfaith Experience*

- *Community Service*

Conference Objectives

- To facilitate dialogue that fosters mutual understanding and cooperation between American and international exchange students from diverse economic, social, religious, cultural and ethnic backgrounds
- To expose students to the beauty of diverse faith practices in a pluralistic society with emphasis on respect, common values and our shared humanity
- To discuss the dangers and solutions for discrimination, radicalism, ethnic nationalism and religious extremism, which have historically been recipes for war and conflict for many civilizations
- To introduce various aspects of leadership including those central to entrepreneurship, innovation and social business
- To cultivate ties of friendship and encourage the future leaders of tomorrow to utilize the best of their American experience towards fostering and seeking out a better world and a better future for all



OVERVIEW

Better Understanding for a Better World (BUBW) was launched in 2006 to give American high school students the opportunity to meet international exchange students of diverse cultural backgrounds and various faith traditions. The most pressing issue our youth face today is how they view the **"other"**, meaning people who are different from them. Through leadership development, multicultural training, and interfaith dialogue, BUBW aims to breakdown the stereotypes and the barriers that lead to fear or hate of the **"other"**.

VISION

A world of multicultural/religious understanding & cooperation

MISSION

To provide youth-oriented multicultural, religious exchange programs for learning and life transforming opportunities

GOALS

- Emphasize global citizenry & cultural competency development
- Focus on leadership development and cultivating ambassadors of peace, good will, reconciliation, and justice
- Encourage civic engagement and promote community service projects among the program participants

Our Conference Program

DAY 1

BUBW ORIENTATION

The conference kicks off on Wednesday evening with a pizza social, a welcoming ceremony and ice-breaking activities, introducing students to the program and participants. Students are introduced to the broad conference topics that will cover a range of issues pertaining to worldwide citizenship and cultural competency development.



DAY 2

LEADERSHIP/ MULTICULTURAL TRAINING

Participants engage in a series of workshops exploring multicultural diversity, leadership development, and global citizenry. Students have the space to self-reflect as well as the opportunity to engage in several cultural competency exercises. The day closes with participant presentations, including international exchange student presentations, about the culture, customs, and faith traditions that exist in their home countries.



DAY 3

INTERFAITH / DIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

A highlight of the conference, this day begins with a tour to three different houses of worship; a synagogue, church, and mosque. Afterwards, the students get to ask a variety of culturally and religiously sensitive questions to an esteemed interfaith panel, which features a Rabbi, a Priest, and an Imam, who emphasize the importance of ***"how can we all work together, effectively, in a pluralistic world to better our world and the future of all humanity?"***

DAY 4

COMMUNITY SERVICE / CULTURAL BANQUET

Students begin with a field trip to either Disney World, The National Aquarium of Baltimore, or San Diego's Sea World. Afterwards, the conference climaxes with a formal, ethnic banquet and a Global Fashion show. Students come dressed in traditional clothing from their home country and celebrate the many traditions from around the world through song, dance and poetry. The program ends with a Keynote Address and a Graduate Certificate Ceremony.

DAY 5

FAREWELL

On the last day, students have a final breakfast meal together followed by a wrap up session before they have to say good-bye to all their new friends. It's a bittersweet aura as students take last minute photos, share contact information, and exchange hugs while saying good-bye. Students say this was not only a good education, but also an extraordinary, eye-opening cultural adventure.



Conference Topics

Multicultural Competency & Diversity Training

Discussion topics “Millennium Cultures”, “Cultural Diffusion”, and “The Reality of Our World Today: How Ignorance and Stereotypes Cause Conflict and Failure” allow the students to explore, first hand, a mindset that impedes humanity and puts our existence at risk for great conflict in the world.

Leadership Development



Discussion sessions titled “The Potential for Youth in a Globalized World”; “The World Today: The Family of Adam and Eve”; “Crossing the Divide”; “Leadership Excellence” help the students recognize their shared humanity as a means for developing an atmosphere of safe coexistence, which leads to successful, creative business engagements.

Interfaith Experience; Prosperity Through Religious Diversity

Topics such as “The Wisdom Behind Religious Differences”, “Prosperity through Cultural & Religious Diversity”, and “What the World Expects from Us” are discussed. Religious and community leaders from various faiths share their respective faith practices, commonalities and differences, as well as their American experience working as a spiritual leader, while living in a pluralistic society.



Civic Engagement & Community Service

Participants discuss how to work together to create a world that is whole. They have an opportunity to discuss personal interests as well as share their aspirations and how they see their role in contributing to world change. During the discussion phase of the community service project, students gain confidence in their abilities to initiate, plan and execute, on a micro level, the good they’d like to see happen in the world. Participants bring a wide variety of ideas and experience to the group, largely due to the diversity of the participants.

Testimonials

Every year, the international exchange students, under a U.S. State Department funded program, compete with one another for an opportunity to be chosen to attend a BUBW conference. For many, it is an opportunity of a lifetime! And for others, it's a dream come true!



Reflections from BUBW Alumni

- *"Loving the Diversity..."* - Omar @ Egypt
- *"The BUBW conference had a great impact on us as it made us realize that there is an emerging leader in each of us."* - Khairon-Niza R. Magundacan @ Philippines
- *"I'm so ready to start working so that I may spread, widely, the knowledge I gained at BUBW."* - Farah Chihadeh @ Lebanon
- *"BUBW helped me to break so many stereotypes within myself ..."* - Anna @Armenia
- *"BUBW is very much needed in different parts of the world..."* - Abbasse @Senegal



- *"I've learned valuable, life-long lessons at BUBW..."* - Sofiya @Ukraine
- *"This was an extraordinary adventure..."* - Adil @Pakistan
- *"Diversity is not a challenge, but a gift ..."* - Sevgi @Turkey
- *"I felt free, safe to talk about the problems in my home country..."* - Malak @Bahrain
- *"Many cultural misunderstandings were corrected at BUBW..."* - Aziza @Kyrgyzstan

Reflections from the 2014 BUBW Development Director

"I could hardly withstand the minute-by-minute anticipation of escalating excitement and what's to come from these highly intelligent, remarkable high school exchange students..."-Nadia Williams, MBA

Better Understanding for a Better World

Calling all American & International Exchange high school students!!!



Are you looking to broaden your global bandwidth and deepen your cognitive reflection skills? Do you want to know what it takes to participate in global citizenry? Do you want to explore the beauty of multiculturalism and an interfaith experience? If so, then you'll want to come to one of our BUBW conferences. Similar to a UN Summit but exclusively for high school students, BUBW conferences offer a highly interactive yet globally focused engagement experience through dialogue, cooperation and mutual understanding in the areas of:

- Multicultural Competency
- Leadership Development
- Diversity Trainings
- Interfaith Experience
- Civic Engagement
- Community Service Projects

For More Information, Contact Us:

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Better Understanding for a Better World INTERNATIONAL

Calling all university students and young professional!!!



We have conducted BUBW International Conferences in regions such as:

2009 – Southeast Asia (The Philippines) – Participants from 1 country represented

2015 – Southeast Asia (Indonesia) – Participants from 7 countries represented

2016 – Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan) – Participants from 18 countries represented

2019 – East Africa (Uganda) – Participants from 13 countries represented

We are in the planning phase to conduct BUBW International Conferences in:

2021 – Europe

2021 – Southeast Asia

2022 – Africa

Our BUBW International Conferences are developed to address issues in each country or region, as well as areas that all university students and young professionals will find useful as they pursue their personal, academic and professional interests in their own country and beyond such as:

- Diversity and Multicultural Competency Training
- Leadership Development
- Women Empowerment and Development
- Interfaith Experience
- Conflict Mediation, Resolution and Peace Building
- Civic Engagement
- Community Service Projects
- Global-Minded Citizens Skills Development