



Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation

2021 Better Understanding for a Better World

March 3 - 7, 2021

San Diego, California

Co-Sponsor: Islamic Center of San Diego



- What:** 2021 Better Understanding for a Better World
When: March 3 - 7, 2021
Where: San Diego, CA
Who: CECF (<http://www.cecf-net.org/>) and the following participating institutions:
- Islamic Center of San Diego (<http://www.icsd.org/>)
 - Congregation Beth Israel (<http://www.cbisd.org/>) (tbc)
 - St. Paul Cathedral (<http://www.stpaulcathedral.org/>) (tbc)

CECF is offering its 37th annual BUBW Conference in San Diego, CA to American high school students and International Exchange students studying in the U.S. under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State's exchange programs.

Overview:

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." The threat of terrorism has brought with it a lot of fear, prejudice, hatred and suspicion of the "Other", which we aim to examine, discuss and transcend.

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 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 faiths and cultural backgrounds. They have been tremendously successful each year and the students benefit in ways that are truly impressive.

Conference Mission:

- 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. Alumni are welcome to join future International BUBW Conferences.

American and Exchange Student Participants and Selection:

American and International high school students are encouraged to attend. International exchange students will represent the following programs sponsored by the Department of State: Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX), Youth Exchange and Study (YES), Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX), and others. Exchange students will be selected by their exchange organizations and American students will be recommended by a staff member of their respective high schools or community / youth group leaders.

Brief Conference Outline:

Wednesday, March 3: (Arrival, Dinner Social, Ice Breaking Games and Orientation)

- **Students should plan to arrive between 3:00 – 7:00 pm.**

Thursday, March 4: (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:
 - a. developing an atmosphere of belonging
 - b. cultural understanding, sensitivity and respect
 - c. problems youth face around the world and ways to resolve these conflicts
- Workshop on “Leadership and the Importance of Youth Involvement”
- **Breakout sessions and group discussions** identifying problems facing the youth of today and ideas /activities for better cooperation on a personal, local and global level
- Cultural Sites in **Balboa Park**
- Workshop on “Leadership and the Importance of Youth Involvement”
- Student presentations (**Student Volunteers**)

Friday, March 5: (Interfaith Visits and Panel Discussion)

- **Visit local places of worship** like a church, synagogue and mosque. Students will experience first-hand similarities and differences within the house of Abraham.
- The visits will be followed by a **panel discussion with the religious leaders** involved in the day’s program.
- **Bonfire on San Diego Bay Beach with Local Youth Group or Dinner Cruise** on the San Diego Bay

Saturday, March 6: (Rejoicing as One)

- **Free time in Sea World**
- **Banquet and Certificate Ceremony** in the evening with a focus on “**The Spirit of Giving and Cooperation.**”

Sunday, March 7: (Wrap Up & Departure)

- **Students should try to schedule their departing flights between 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.**

Conference Price includes:

- **Registration/Participation** in Conference
- Lodging at the **Best Western Seven Seas** (tbc) - 4 nights - <http://www.bw7seas.com/>
- 3 meals daily
- **Conference Session** at the **Town & Country Resort and Convention Center** (tbc) on March 4th <http://www.towncountry.com/>
- **International Youth Summit (IYS)**
- Admission to sites at **Balboa Park** on the 4th - <http://www.balboapark.org/>
- **Interfaith Community Visits** on March 5th
- **Bon Fire or Dinner Cruise** on March 5th - <http://www.hornblower.com/hce/home/sd> (tbc)
- Admission to **Sea World** on March 6th - <http://www.seaworld.com/sandiego/>
- **Banquet and Certificates Ceremony** at the **Town & Country Resort and Convention Center** (tbc) on March 6th
- Transportation during the program, including from the **San Diego International Airport (SAN)** on Wednesday (3/3) to the hotel and back to the **San Diego International Airport (SAN)** on Sunday (3/7)

**If you have questions about the conference, please contact
Kim at cecf1@aol.com or call 202-230-3984.**