



## Global Education Motivators (GEM)

### Overview of Programs 2018-2019

**GEM** brings the world into the classroom in three focused areas:

- *Bringing youth together across cultures for real-world experiential learning*
- *Using history to understand living in an interdependent world*
- *Supporting awareness and action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*

**Conferences and Events** - Emphasizing human rights, human development, and environmental sustainability, GEM programs are designed to create substantive experiences for students and teachers to work across cultures to better understand their world. A major objective of GEM is to move students and educators into action related to the important global issues of our time.

**The United Nations** – GEM has had formal relationship with the UN for 30 years. GEM is accredited with the UN Department of Public Information and has consulting status with Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). ECOSOC is one of the six main organs of the UN.

Bringing the United Nations into the classroom has always been a priority of GEM. For almost 40 years, GEM has provided students in grades 8-12 the opportunity to learn more about the work of the United Nations in our interdependent world, particularly in the area of human rights, and now the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). Using videoconferencing applications and developing UN student conferences (see below), is a powerful way to make young people aware of the UN and its important role in their lives.

**Student Leadership Conference on Development at the UN (SLCD@UN)** - This year's conference will continue to focus on the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). The 17 SDG's will work to help end extreme poverty in the world by 2030. This year's theme is Water and Sanitation. It is SDG 6.

The vision of SLCD@UN is for youth (ages 14-19) to be empowered to be part of the solution to achieve the SDGs by 2030. Students participating in the SLCD@UN will select one of three subthemes and work closely with other students from around the world who are a part of the same subtheme. They will research, discuss, and analyze cross culturally, at school and on-line to decide on the most attainable and sustainable solutions to their specific global issue. Student leaders will meet on-line and a draft a Plan of Action will be developed for their discussion and completion at the United Nations in February 2019. At the end of the conference, the students will vote to approve their Plan of Action. SLCD@UN is a live webcast with students participating from around the world. After final editing by the youth leadership team, the Plan of Action is formally presented to the UN Envoy on Youth at the United Nations.

**Global Solutions Lab** - Developed by GEM with BigPictureSmallWorld Inc., university students, professionals, and educators (ages 19 and up) gather at Chestnut Hill College from around the world to participate in an intensive eight-day Lab. Participants will have the opportunity to learn from diverse UN representatives related to the annual theme and to develop comprehensive and provable strategies for addressing some of the world's most critical problems. On the final day of the Lab, students present their work at the UN to a panel from different parts of the UN. Participants will learn a powerful strategic design and planning methodology, as well as leadership, group processes, and problem-solving skills. All participants will also have their work published. The 2019 Lab will take place in late June with a focus on the eradication of extreme poverty by 2030.

