

## UNAI MEMBER ACTIVITY REPORT 2016/2017

### Norwalk Community College (NCC) USA

During the 2016/2017 reporting period, Norwalk Community College (NCC) undertook a number of activities that underscore its commitment to UNAI and its principles. The following examples stand out as particularly noteworthy:



NCC has several student clubs that focus on contemporary global issues, peace, international relations and intercultural communication, among them the NCC Peace Club, Student World Assembly, and Model UN. The Model UN club was created in 2015, and every year, 10 to 12 students from that club have been able to participate in National Model UN conferences in Washington, and New York. This experience has not only helped all students at NCC to learn about global issues, other cultures and the organization and the goals of the United Nations, it also helped students to excel academically and transfer to selective schools, including Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania. The Model UN club also regularly offers trips to the UN headquarters in New York and club members of this club as well as Student World Assembly have participated in a one day institutes at the UN, learning about environmental issues and intergenerational stewardship.

NCC also collaborates with UNA/USA Fairfield County in multiple ways, most prominently hosting a UN day celebration every year. This event always includes a UN speaker and usually other panellists. The event attracts between 150 to 300 students, faculty, staff and community members. Some of the topics in the past years included: "Breaking the Silence: Battling Mass Violence in the Congo (DRC)", "The Future of Water," "Global Refugee Crisis: Economic and Political Consequences," "The Future of US and North Korea Relations." Guest speakers have included representatives of UNHCR, UNICEF, state representatives and experts from other universities. Another standing event at NCC is Earth Day with guest speakers including authors and film makers on topics including global warming and the pollution of our oceans, and hands-on activities for the college community.

In 2016, NCC planted a peace pole in a prominent place between the East and West campus that students pass on a daily basis. The peace pole displays the word "peace" in the most common languages and cultures of the over 80 languages represented in the student body.

Disclaimer: This activity report has been submitted by Norwalk Community College (NCC) and does not necessarily reflect the views of or represent an endorsement by the United Nations Academic Impact.

In 2016/17, NCC created a Peace and Community Mediation certificate which will be offered from fall 2018/spring 2019 on. The certificate includes the creation of a mediation class and in the future also an introductory course on Human Rights.

The spring 2018 semester will offer a particular highlight in NCC's dedication to UNAI principles as the focus of the day-long Academic Festival will be "Creative Leadership for Peace." The keynote speaker for this event will be Amada Benavides, a Colombian mediator who has worked for the United Nations Working Group on the use of mercenaries, the High Commissioner on Human Rights, Geneva and other organizations. She has also majorly contributed to the implementation of peace education throughout the Colombia school system. This festival will be part of the first Connecticut Peace Institute, co-organized with Housatonic CC and Gateway CC.

At the moment the newly created honours program is building undergraduate research connected to sustainable development and environmental protection. This project is in its planning stage.

#### **Events in 2018 at NCC related to the principles of UNAI:**

On April 4th, NCC hosted its Academic Festival under the topic "Creative Leadership for Peace."

Our keynote speaker was Amada Benavides from Colombia. She is an experienced peace builder and mediator who have worked with the UN on post conflict resolution and the implementation of peace education in Colombia.



#### **Links:**

<https://norwalk.edu/>

<https://www.facebook.com/NorwalkCommunityCollege/>

<https://twitter.com/NewsNCC>

Disclaimer: This activity report has been submitted by Norwalk Community College (NCC) and does not necessarily reflect the views of or represent an endorsement by the United Nations Academic Impact.