



For Immediate Release
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WorldDenver Expands Education Programs Through Merger With Center for Teaching International Relations

DENVER - WorldDenver and the Center for Teaching International Relations jointly announced a merger agreement today making the World Affairs Challenge, a 30-year international education and mentoring program serving hundreds of Denver-area students every year, a permanent program of WorldDenver.

“Under the leadership of the Center for Teaching International Relations board and staff, and with the support of an entire community of volunteers, educators, and supporters, the World Affairs Challenge has grown into a unique and exciting model for engaging young people and encouraging global citizenship,” said WorldDenver Executive Director John Krieger. “We are thrilled to welcome the WAC community to WorldDenver and to build on 30 years of success by reaching even more students in Denver, throughout the country, and around the world.”

Since its founding in 1992, the World Affairs Challenge has provided more than 8,000 middle and high school students with a competition-based opportunity to build leadership skills through global engagement. In 2010, the Center for Teaching International Relations, the parent organization of the World Affairs Challenge, became an independent 501(c)3, evolving into a program in which teams create project proposals and develop community service projects addressing challenges related to UN Sustainability Goals that they present to a panel of judges at a final event.

In 2020, WorldDenver and CTIR partnered on a grant from the Stevens Initiative to create the World Affairs Challenge Virtual Exchange. The new program, which launched earlier this fall, builds off of the World Affairs Challenge model by adding an international exchange component. Teams competing in the World Affairs Challenge Virtual Exchange are composed equally of students from Denver and students in the Middle East and North Africa, and the entire program is conducted online.

Based on the success of that partnership and a shared vision for growth of the WAC programs, the Center for Teaching International Relations and WorldDenver began pursuing a merger earlier this year.

“WorldDenver’s leadership and infrastructure offers the best opportunity to ensure the continued growth of the World Affairs Challenge,” said CTIR President Tess Ellis. “We are thrilled that WorldDenver will be taking the reins of the WAC program, and we are committed to continued support of the program, the students, and the WorldDenver team through this transition and beyond.”

Following the merger agreement, World Affairs Challenge Program Director Hope Mukai, who has led the growth of the WAC program over the last 6 years, will become a staff member of WorldDenver. A Transition Committee consisting of members of the WorldDenver board and former members of the CTIR board will meet monthly to ensure success of the 2021-2022 WAC program and competition event.

“WorldDenver will provide the organizational support that the World Affairs Challenge needs as we expand our program offerings around the globe,” said Mukai. “From the traditional World Affairs Challenge to the new Virtual Exchange program, WorldDenver’s connections and community of collaborative support will surely provide the WAC program the environment it needs to truly thrive in its growth over the next several years.”

The merger agreement was approved unanimously by both Boards of Directors last Thursday and official notice was filed with the Colorado Secretary of State in compliance with state law.

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Learn more about the World Affairs Challenge at: Worldaffairschallenge.org

Learn more about the World Affairs Challenge Virtual Exchange at:

WorldDenver.org/our-programs/world-affairs-challenge-virtual-exchange.html

Learn more about the mission and programs of WorldDenver at: WorldDenver.org



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