

Brother Rice H.S. Wins United Nations Foundation Global Debates

By Mike Ingberg

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Students will travel to New York for Youth Leadership Summit on Climate Change

Brother Rice High School (www.brrice.edu) was selected as a winner in an international debate competition and will travel to New York City this week for a Youth Leadership Summit, July 15-18.

The United Nations Foundation's Global Debates program, which engages more than 2,000 high schools from 90 countries in climate change debates and action, will bring 150 students and teachers from seven countries to the United Nations. They will spend three days immersed in panel discussions with UN leadership, workshops on climate science from grassroots youth activists, and service with local organizations working to offset climate change in New York City.

"We have been incredibly impressed by the thousands of students who took part in the 2008 and 2009 Global Debates," said Kaitlin Barry, Director of the UN Foundation's Campus Outreach. "It is inspiring to see students create detailed Climate Change Action Plans, debate whether or not developed nations have a higher obligation to combat global warming, and work with their communities to engage everyday people in climate action. This year's summit will bring together the most active Global Debates schools and celebrate the enthusiasm of these impressive young leaders."

Each team participating in the Youth Leadership Summit consists of four to six students accompanied by two of their Global Debate teachers. UN Foundation Senior Advisor Gillian Sorensen and Janos Pasztor, the director of the UN's Secretary-General's Climate Change Support Team will be among the featured speakers.

Youth climate activists from 350.org will help the Summit students prepare detailed grassroots organizing plans for International Day of Climate Action, which will take place on UN Day, October 24th, 2009. Lastly, partners such as Goldman Sachs and the New York Restoration project will support participants in their efforts to engage in local environmental service.

"The UN-sponsored Youth Summit was the culmination of a year's worth of experience that will carry with me through the rest of my life," said Brother Rice sophomore Evan Hebert, who attended last year's World Youth Summit. "Going to New York, meeting other students from around the globe with similar interests, and hearing lectures from some of the leaders in climate science were all opportunities to share my views and defend them in a forum that was both open and informative."

Brother Rice Debate Coach and Speech Teacher Nancy Lauer added: "Our guys have accumulated more than 30,000 points throughout the school year to earn this distinction among other schools. But the main thing they have learned is what it means to become active participants in making a difference in the world in which they live. It is such a wonderful experience to communicate with students from around the globe and work together."

Global Debate Winners from Rice attending this year's Summit will be: Seniors Alex Tolksdorf, Damon Tang, Robert Armstrong and Junior William Giorgio.

The top 10 U.S. schools and top six international schools who have won a trip to the Summit include: Madison Central High School, Madison, Mississippi; Brother Rice High School, Bloomfield Hills,

Michigan; Kerr High School, Houston, Texas; Santee High School, Los Angeles, California; Northern Utah Academy for Math, Engineering & Science, Layton, Utah; Princeton High School, Princeton, Texas; Del Valle High School, Del Valle, Texas; Monsignor Kelly High School, Beaumont, Texas; Norman High School, Norman, Oklahoma; Kearney High School, Kearney, Nebraska; Prometeu-Prim, Chisinau, Moldova; Liceul Academiei de Stiinte, Straseni, Moldova; Hobby School, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; Secondary School of Mathematics "Baba Tonka," Rousse, Bulgaria; CheongShim International, Gyeonggi-do, Korea; Kolej Tuanku Ja'afar, Mantin, Malaysia.

For more information about the UN Foundation's Global Debates and Youth Leadership Summit, visit <http://www.unfoundation.org/our-impact/engaging-youth/the-global-debates.html>.

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ABOUT BROTHER RICE

Brother Rice High School is a private, fully accredited, four-year Catholic College Preparatory school for young men. Brother Rice was founded in 1960 by the Congregation of Christian Brothers of Ireland. Visit www.brrice.edu for more information, or contact Media Relations at (248) 647-2526, x. 155, or e-mail northrup@brrice.edu.

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Tags	brother, rice, high, school, Youth, leadership, Summit, debate, competition, united, nations
Email	Click to email author
Phone	248-855-6777
Fax	248-855-6719
Address	31420 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 100
City/Town	Farmington Hills
State/Province	Michigan
Zip	48334
Country	United States