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2014 KENTUCKY YMCA HIGH SCHOOL U.N. ASSEMBLIES CONVENE

Students participate in 3-day experience in global citizenship; Draft resolution on Crimea

LOUISVILLE – This past week, over 1,600 high school students, teachers, and volunteers participated in two sessions of the Kentucky United Nations Assembly, or KUNA – a 3-day Model UN and international immersion program of the Kentucky YMCA Youth Association. The two high school sessions, held March 9-11 and March 13-15, are immediately followed by 3 sessions for middle school students.

KUNA participants serve as UN Ambassadors from nations chosen by their schools. Ambassadors prepare an interactive Global Village exhibit for their country, design and wear native attire, and author a UN Proposal on an international issue. Participants also have the opportunity to serve on the Security Council, as advocates in the International Court of Justice, or as members of the press.

Two proposals are selected at each session for debate in the KUNA General Assembly. This year's proposals included providing greater access to vaccines (Harrison Co. HS), ending human trafficking at the FIFA World Cup and Olympics (Lynn Camp HS), expanding membership of the Security Council (Christian Academy of Louisville), and establishing education programs for displaced refugees (Scott Co. HS)

The Secretary General at each KUNA also selects a proposal for debate in the General Assembly. Session 1 Sec. Gen. Jenna Farineau (duPont Maua HS) selected a proposal to promote the responsible use of antibiotics (St. Xavier HS), and Session 2 Sec. Gen. Maya Burke (Frankfort HS) selected a proposal to combat world hunger through increased financial commitments from veto-power nations (Western Hills HS).

The current situation between Ukraine and Russia provided the KUNA Security Council with an opportunity to deliberate on an active international crisis. Security Council members received a briefing from Natasha Reimer, a native of the Crimean capitol of Simferopol and staff member for Louisville-based Amazing Global Marketplace, and passed a resolution agreeing to monitor the Crimean vote on secession.

As part of a service-learning partnership between the Y and Louisville-based Waterstep (www.waterstep.org), both sessions combined to collect over 1,900 pounds of shoes to help fund safe drinking water projects.

Each KUNA session also elected a new Secretary General for 2015. Session 1 elected Talha Muhammad of Boyle Co. HS, and Session 2 elected Brianna Daniel of Presentation Academy.

For a full list of selected proposals, honorees, and award winners, please visit www.kyyymca.org/2014-awards

The Kentucky YMCA Youth Association was founded in 1890 as the State YMCA of Kentucky, held the first Kentucky United Nations Assembly in 1959, and is currently led by CEO Ben Reno-Weber.

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About the Kentucky YMCA Youth Association

The Kentucky YMCA Youth Association is committed to developing engaged citizens and servant leaders who are inspired to affect change in their schools, communities, Commonwealth, nation and world. The Kentucky YMCA Youth Association is the largest YMCA Youth In Government program in the country, working alongside programs in 38 states to serve over 50,000 students nationwide.



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Awards www.kyyymca.org/kuna/2014-awards