

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

MISSION STATEMENT

Global Concerns Classroom (GCC) is a US-based global education program that seeks to cultivate globally concerned youth who understand global inequalities, recognize the interconnectedness of all people, and take informed action towards a world without extreme poverty. GCC aims to inspire youth to become active global citizens and leaders for a better future.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Global Concerns Classroom is a year-long program open to all high school students (grades 9-12) in the NYC, Chicago, and Boston metro areas. Through a standards-aligned curriculum and unique out-of-school events, GCC prepares youth with the knowledge and skills needed to tackle some of the world's greatest challenges through collaboration, project design and implementation, and reflection.

For the 2016-17 school year, students will explore the theme of ***Complex Emergencies***, answering the driving question, "How can the international community address the needs of those impacted by complex emergencies?"

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

1. Educator Professional Development [Sept]

Before the student program begins, registered educators will participate in a two-hour professional development training led by the GCC team. The session will cover in detail program components, curriculum content and theme, and a chance to network with other participating teachers. There will also be an opportunity to meet fellow teachers also implementing the program in each city. The professional development session will be offered in-person in each city in September and **participation is required** by registered teachers.

2. Fall Curriculum [Oct – Jan]

GCC will provide five lessons that are aligned with Common Core, National Council for Social Studies National standards, and the C3 Framework, to be implemented by the educator with the participating group of students sometime between Oct to Jan 2016. While these are stand-alone lessons that can be facilitated consecutively or spread throughout the course of the three months, all five lessons must be completed before February. It is designed to be flexible and for educators to decide how best to implement within varying school settings and schedules. GCC will provide an online portal where all materials are housed and PDF downloadable with active links for easy use. If needed, GCC can also provide a printed copy of the lessons and activities. The topics for the lessons will include: Introduction to NGOs, Types of Emergencies, Consequences of Displacement, Solutions & Actors, and Project Proposals & Communication.

3. Global Youth Summit [Feb]

The *Global Youth Summit* is an all-day, out-of-school event on a Friday in February for selected students from all participating schools. A summit will be held in each city (exact dates to be confirmed). In mixed school teams, students will address major issues within refugee camp settings from diverse lenses (e.g., gender). Each group will create a project proposal from their lens for the camp using a \$1 million budget. A maximum of 10 students per school can attend the summit; educators will decide the selection process. For more on our flagship *Global Youth Summit*, visit our 2012 highlight video: <http://vimeo.com/55869479>

4. Spring Community Action Plans [Mar – Apr]

Students who attend the *Global Youth Summit* will also receive some training and resources to help kick-start community action plans back at their respective schools. Each school will have approximately eight weeks to plan and execute an action plan that informs the local community about the global theme and engages them in some form of action to make a positive impact. This can be in the form of an awareness campaign, a fundraiser, an advocacy petition, a media project, or something else of students' choosing. The GCC team will provide support and a mid-point check-in with student leaders to help facilitate the process.

5. Virtual Concern To Action Showcase [May]

To celebrate the program year, the *Concern to Action Showcase* will be a virtual event that brings together all participating schools in early-May to showcase the school community action plans and to recognize student achievements.

6. Student Field Visit [July]

Students who have participated in the key components of the GCC program throughout the year are eligible to apply for the Annual Student Field Visit, where two student leaders and their teachers will be chosen to visit one of Concern's operational countries for a week in July. The purpose is to give participants an opportunity to visit development programs firsthand and to learn from community members, youth, and staff on the ground. Costs are covered mostly by Concern. Information will be provided throughout the school year, including a parent night for interested students. Read about two students' experience in Ethiopia from last year:

<http://gcc.concernusa.org/field-visit/gcc-road-ethiopia/>

Visit our 2011 Kenya highlight video for a glimpse of students' experiences:

<http://vimeo.com/36578372>

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

In order to participate in the program **FREE** of charge, the requirements are:

- 1) **Engaged Educator** – Participating educators are responsible for communicating with the Global Concerns Classroom team, either through email or phone, throughout the program year. In addition, each educator commits to completing all program components and ensures students' active participation throughout the program cycle.
- 2) **Consistent Group of Students** – The GCC program is open to all students, grades 9-12, in the NYC, Chicago, and Boston metro areas. There is no minimum or maximum number of students required for participation. However, due to the nature of the program design, there must be the same group of students participating in all components of the program from October to May. This may be through a class, a section of classes, an extracurricular group, or other selection of the school's choosing. (Note: If you have students only for one semester, this is not an ideal program for participation. If you can convert the program into a club setting for second semester, then participation may still be feasible.)
- 3) **Commitment to Program Schedule** – Completion of all program components by the specified timeframes during the October to May program cycle is required.
- 4) **Evaluation Participation** – In order to measure GCC program impact for reporting and funding, participation of all program evaluation activities is critical. Program evaluation includes pre- and post- educator and student surveys, post-*Global Youth Summit* educator and student surveys, and post-program focus group discussions.

Registration is online and opens **April 1, 2016**: gcc.concernusa.org/register.

Space is limited; only 10 schools per city will be accepted. You will receive an email to confirm your application acceptance. Registration is required for *each* participating educator. If you have any further questions about the GCC program, please contact us at global.concerns@concern.net.