

Independent Day School Students Participate In Global Youth Summit In Beijing

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Tampa, Fla.

Last month, thirteen students from Independent Day School-Corbett Campus (IDS-CC) acted as global ambassadors representing the school at the first international Youth Leadership Program. Held in Beijing, China, the four-day program, “Youth Leaders for Global Understanding,” was part of the International School Connection’s 2007 Annual Global Summit for educators.

The youth summit brought together more than 80 middle school and high school students from three continents who attended leadership workshops designed to help increase their awareness of their role as global citizens. Summit sessions, as well as cultural side trips and recreational activities focused on strengthening understanding and appreciation for other cultures while developing the communication and leadership skills needed in the evolving global society.



International School Connection’s 2007 Annual Global Summit for educators, held in Beijing, China, included eighty middle school and high school students from three continents for a four-day program, “Youth Leaders for Global Understanding. Thirteen students from Independent Day School-Corbett Campus (IDS-CC) acted as global ambassadors representing the school at the first international Youth Leadership Program.

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IDS-CC is the first elementary and middle school to be recognized as building and developing an International School Connection (ISC) Global Learning Center. The ISC is a nonprofit organization with an international board of directors and officers who represent nine different countries. With its roots dating back to 1994, the ISC promotes and supports school development activity around the world that seeks to prepare young people for living and working in the global age.

IDS-CC helped host the previous global summit which was held in Tampa last year.

“The whole idea behind the youth summit was that if we can give students the opportunity to make global connections when they are young, then they will be equipped to work in a global society as adults,” said Linda Boza, the co-chairman of the Youth Leadership Program. Boza is also the associate director of the IDS-CC middle school in Carrollwood. Upon returning to school, the student representatives shared their experiences with other students through classroom presentations and a school-wide assembly.

In Beijing, while teachers and administrators attended their educational leadership program, the students attended theirs. In one workshop, students discussed quality characteristics common to different countries, and in another they practiced techniques for coming to agreement.

The youth summit included a Global Classrooms session – a curriculum developed by the United Nations Association of the United States of America that engages students in exploration of current world issues through interactive simulations. Students participated in a mock United Nations conference learning how to propose resolutions, negotiate with supporters and adversaries and resolve conflict while nurturing respect for diverse perspectives.

According to Boza, the IDS-CC students who traveled to China with teachers and parents made connections with many students from other countries as well as formed some true friendships.

“When you know someone who lives in another country and you have a friendship with that person, you become more empathetic towards their country despite cultural, political or social differences. In that respect, giving students the opportunity to expand their global perspective really does contribute to future world peace.”

Founded in 1968, Independent Day School-Corbett Campus is a fully accredited, independent school located on Orange Grove Drive in northwest Hillsborough County. The school serves 550 students in PreK3 through 8th grade and offers the International Baccalaureate program of study for all middle school students. At IDS, all children experience learning in a nurturing and highly academic environment focused on excellence and developing a positive self-concept. IDS-CC has become recognized as an exemplary school with over 3,500 visitors observing and learning from and with IDS-CC teachers about the school's M.O.R.E. Approach to education. For more information about IDS visit www.idsy.com.

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