

Introduction to GPEJ Special Edition on GIC

The Global Issues Conference (GIC) was inspired by the conversations and interactions of students during the Global Understanding programme. As an instructor in Krosno State College, Poland, I have always been impressed by the range of discussions and the talks the students become involved with. It was not that the students were only talking about College Life or Stereotypes, but they were talking about their ideas, hopes for the future and interests. The more I have worked on the GU programme, the more I have understood the similarity of interests and similarity of research being conducted by the students in our partner institutions around the globe.

This is why the GIC was created to bring together students and to provide them with a forum to share their ideas, thoughts, interests and research. Most importantly, the GIC is the student arena for the students to showcase their work and see that they are not alone in the work they are doing. Global Issues are exactly as that: issues which are important to the entire world.

The success of the conference is down to the work of two groups of people. Firstly, there are the students who wrote and delivered their papers in a virtual environment. For many students this was their first conference and opportunity to present their ideas. As one student said: “Thank you very much, that's a great time, and one of the most fantastic moments I've ever had.” Secondly, the GIC could not have happened without the background work of the student supervisors. They were responsible for helping, arranging and organising the students to keep to the deadlines. And feedback was again positive: “It was a great opportunity of learning for all of us, and no doubt the discussions are very productive and intellectual”.

Of course, we cannot forget the students who participated in the sessions and got involved in discussions and debates on their topics.

As the conference organisers prepare the special edition of the GPEJ it is easy to understand the enthusiasm and importance of the project to the students and participating institutions. The range of papers covering Global Health, Global Tourism, Women's Issues, Films, Language and Linguistics and Global Education provides a clear example of the participant's interests and ideas. Not only are the topics touching upon important issues that are shaping our current society, but they are topics that future generations will be involved in.

We also cannot forget that for the GIC to be a truly global conference we needed presenters from around the world. The conference presenters came from: Krosno State College, Poland; East Carolina University, USA; Shaanxi Normal University, China; Beijing Union University, China; Ural State Pedagogical University, Russia; Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia; Universidad del Pacífico, Ecuador; Fatima Jinnah Women University, Pakistan; Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University, Kyrgyzstan;

Universidad Regiomontana, Mexico; Universidad Continental, Peru; and Covenant University, Nigeria.

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