We are very pleased to announce that the Global Liberal Arts Alliance will join Deree-The American College of Greece as Educational Partner for the prestigious International New York Times Athens Democracy Forum (ADF) to be held in Athens, Greece October 9-11, 2019. Now in its seventh year, the Athens Democracy Forum has become a preeminent forum to debate critical questions about the state of liberal democracy in the world. Deree and the Alliance will coordinate Forum programming for a team of student delegates from Alliance institutions.

The Forum’s theme, “Reinventing Democracy – New Models for a Changing World”, speaks to the mission of Liberal Arts education to prepare global citizens who can work together to solve complex problems that bring positive change to a turbulent world. Forum sessions will focus on four topics deriving from the Forum theme:

- We and Them: The tectonic plates of nationalism and multiculturalism
- The echo chamber and the Agora: The use and abuse of new and social media
- The cost of Inequity: Where has all the money gone?
- Back to Basics: What must be done to restore faith in Democracy?

**Nomination of Student Delegates**

Each Global Alliance member institution may nominate up to two candidates to be considered for selection for the Alliance delegation to attend the Forum. From this pool of candidates, 24 students will be selected. The selection process will seek to create a delegation that offers a globally balanced and compelling set of perspectives. Alliance schools from the U.S. are strongly encouraged to consider international students in their nominations. Candidates nominated must be students who will be enrolled at an Alliance school in 2019-20 and must be endorsed by their campus’ chief academic officer. Candidates should have interest in the Forum’s four topics, issues related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and be able to work with students from diverse backgrounds.

**Expenses**

The NYT will provide the registration fee. The American College of Greece will provide most meals, local transportation, and manage program activities. Students will be awarded an Endeavor Fellowship that will cover lodging and 50% of airfare from the airport of their home campus to Athens up to USD 750. Delegates will be responsible for visa fees, some meals, and incidentals.

**Scope of Student Involvement**

We expect student delegates to make a meaningful contribution to the Forum. Student delegates are asked to consider the questions raised by the Forum’s theme from the perspective of youth from their part of the world. Student delegates will work in small groups on the four Forum topics and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Each student will be asked to share the results of their work with their campus and to create an action plan to take back to their campus.

A focus of student involvement this year will be on two SDGs: SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 13 – Climate Action (one or two other SDGs may be added). Student delegates will be asked
to familiarize themselves with the Sustainable Development Goals program, possibly researching case studies on how companies, NGOs, and governments are using them. This work will prepare students for their active role during the Sustainable Goals Luncheon and the workshops that follow. Working in groups, student delegates will write a white paper summarizing the recommendations for each of the SDG discussed at the Forum.

Two or three students will participate in a panel session to discuss the vital questions facing young people today. The format and content of this session have not been determined.

*Students should take course load and the number of days they will miss class (including travel days) into account in considering whether to apply. Students selected to attend the Forum must commit to doing preparatory work over the summer and in Athens prior to the Forum.* This will include discussion of the four Forum topics, research into the SDGs, and meeting each other via email and video conferencing to discuss the Forum topics and the SDGs.

Visit [Youth Democracy Forum](#) to read about student delegate involvement at the 2018 Athens Democracy Forum.

**Application Materials and Process**

Application to participate in the Athens Democracy Forum has two steps.

**Step 1:** An interested student submits the Student Delegate Application to their Chief Academic Officer. Consult your Chief Academic Officer for your campus’ application due date.

**Step 2:** Each Alliance campus selects up to two applications to forward to the Global Alliance office. These applications are to be submitted by the school’s Chief Academic Officer to Simon Gray (Gray@glca.org). A Global Alliance review committee will make selections to create a group that represents a globally balanced set of perspectives and experience. We do not guarantee that one student per campus will be selected.

A complete application consists of the following.

1. Student Delegate Application
2. Curriculum vitae/resume
3. Academic transcript (may be unofficial)

**Important Dates**

- May 6, 2019: Campus nominations due to the Global Alliance office (Gray@glca.org)
- May 31, 2019: Notification of acceptance
- June 19, 2019: Visa application submitted (if needed)
- Summer 2019: Groups assigned; groups meet by video conferencing/email and complete preparatory research
- October 5 or 6, 2019: Student delegates arrive in Athens
- October 9, 2019: Athens Democracy Forum opens
- October 11, 2019: Athens Democracy Forum ends
- October 12, 2019: Work day to draft reports
- October 13, 2019: Student delegates return to their campuses

**Contacts**

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