Global Alliance Institute
Leadership and Liberal Arts: A Foundation for Social Good

We are very pleased to announce that Kalamazoo College will join with Deree-The American College of Greece as Educational Partner for the prestigious New York Times Athens Democracy Forum (ADF) to be held in Athens, Greece September 16-18, 2018.

The theme of this year’s Forum, “Democracy in Danger: Solutions 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:

*The Allure of the Illiberal* – How democracy should respond to what the new autocrats are preaching; without strong institutions, democracy becomes the dictatorships of the majority.

*When technology collides with citizenship* – Social media, AI, robotics and other technological innovations are impacting government, business, and society, for better and for worse.

*What is the business of business?* - Back in the 1970s, Milton Friedman wrote in the The Times that “the business of business is business.” Today the pressures on companies is to assume a greater responsibility to society.

*Identity, Diversity, and Inclusion* – The political engagement of women and minorities continues to lag in many democracies, but their participation is integral to the legitimacy and resilience of democratic institutions and processes.

**Expenses**
Kalamazoo College will provide airfare for two student delegates to attend the Forum. The New York Times will provide the registration fee. The American College of Greece will provide housing, meals, local transportation, and manage program activities. Delegates are responsible for incidental expenses.

**Scope of Student Engagement**
The Student Delegates attending the Forum will be asked to do some work in advance of the Forum. This may include readings, identifying questions to explore at the Forum, and meeting each other via email and video conferencing.

Delegates will combine attending Forum events with working in groups on position statements and action plans relating to Forum themes. Delegates will present the results of their work at a Forum session that will be attended by regular delegates from around the world. Each group will prepare a report and each student will be asked to share the results of their work with their home campus and to create an action plan for steps to be taken on return to campus.

**Application Process**
This is a two-step selection process. Potential student delegates must submit application materials to the CIP by May 4th. A faculty/staff committee will review applications and will select two K students.
to nominate for the Forum. Once nominated, K student delegates will be reviewed by the Forum committee. Nominated delegates will receive final notification of participation by May 29th, 2018. The students selected to attend the Forum must commit to doing preparatory work over the summer and in Athens prior to the Forum.

A complete application consists of the following.

1. Curriculum vitae/resume
2. Academic transcript (unofficial is fine)
3. Essay – no more than 1200 words total for the 3 parts (enter your essay in the space below)
   a. Part I Describe your interest in one of the Forum’s four topics (see announcement for descriptions)
      i. The Allure of the Illiberal
      ii. When Technology Collides with Citizenship
      iii. What is the Business of Business?
      iv. Identity, Diversity and Inclusion
   b. Part II: Describe your interest and involvement in issues aligned with either SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities or SDG 13 – Climate Action.
   c. Part III: Describe how participation in the Forum will advance your post-graduate goals by building on your experiences and interests.

All of the application components must be sent electronically to Margaret Wiedenhoef at mwieden@kzoo.edu by Friday, May 4th.

Rising sophomores and juniors are encouraged to apply. Unfortunately due to the Forum’s own request, graduating seniors are not eligible for this opportunity.

Important Dates
May 4th, 2018: Completed applications due.
May 7th: K committee meets and selects two students to be nominated.
May 29th, 2018: Notification of acceptance
Summer 2018: Students convene by video conferencing/email and complete preparatory work
September 12, 2018: Delegates arrive in Athens
September 16, 2018: Athens Democracy Forum opens
September 20 or 21, 2018: Delegates return to their campuses