



World Affairs Councils of America

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

World Affairs Councils of America Receives Unprecedented \$500,000 Endowment Pledge

San Antonio Philanthropist Supports ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST National High School Competition

Washington, DC, April 24 — ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST, a flagship program of the World Affairs Councils of America that engages more than 4,000 high school students annually across the U.S. to test their knowledge of global issues and foreign policy, has received a \$500,000 commitment from a generous supporter. Carlos Alvarez of San Antonio, Texas, a businessman and philanthropist who serves on the WACA National Board of Directors, made the pledge as part of the nonprofit organization's campaign to endow the ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST national competition. He is making the gift with his wife, Malu – the gift would be the largest to date for any World Affairs Councils of America fundraising initiative.

“Mr. and Mrs. Alvarez’s generosity is an inspiring affirmation of the purpose of ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST – to offer young people a fun and interactive way to learn about critical challenges facing the U.S. and the world – and their gift will enable WACA to sustain and expand the ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST national competition while enhancing support for educational programs provided by 96 local nonprofit World Affairs Councils,” says Bill Clifford, WACA President and CEO. “They truly understand the value of educating and engaging the public, and especially students, in international affairs and we are incredibly grateful for their commitment.”

“One of the greatest challenges facing our nation and our schools across the country is preparing our youth for the complex, interconnected world of the 21st century,” says Mr. Alvarez, Chairman and CEO of The Gambrinus Company. “Being active with WACA and supporting its efforts to equip an informed citizenry and workforce is how my wife and I define a great partnership. ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST is a unique opportunity to expose our youth to the world outside our borders and cultivate a global mindset.” The \$500,000 pledge by Carlos and Malu Alvarez is in addition to their annual support of 25 full scholarships for promising undergraduates to attend the WACA National Conference in Washington, DC for the past several years.

“Carlos Alvarez is a genuine visionary who believes in taking bold steps to ensure that ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST, one of the World Affairs Councils of America’s most effective programs, can continue,” says Ambassador Paula Dobriansky, Chair of WACA’s National Board of Directors. “I am thrilled with his leadership on the Board, which will result in more support for wonderful programming in the communities across the U.S. served by our Councils.”

The 13th Annual ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST National Competition will be held on April 25, 2015 at the Georgetown University Hotel and Convention Center in our nation’s capital. Forty-five high school teams of four students each, which won their local AWQ competitions hosted by Councils earlier in the academic year, will vie for the national championship. The competition consists of 100 questions in 10 categories, including: Russia/Eurasia; Food and Water; Youth, Jobs, and Social Unrest; Asia and the New Global Economy; Millennium Development Goals: 2015 and Beyond; Future of Energy; and Africa Rising.

Launched in November 2014, the ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST Endowment Campaign aims to raise \$1 million by April 2016, when the World Affairs Councils of America will hold the Carlos and Malu Alvarez ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST National Competition.

High school students and advisers keen to participate should contact their local World Affairs Councils or the World Affairs Councils of America's national office. Donors interested in contributing to the ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST Endowment should contact Bill Clifford, President and CEO of the World Affairs Councils of America (202-833-4557, bclifford@worldaffairscouncils.org).

World Affairs Councils of America

The World Affairs Councils of America is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization in Washington, DC. WACA, in serving a network of 96 World Affairs Councils across the United States, acts daily to uphold a commitment to public learning and democracy. WACA and its member Councils believe in the notion espoused by Thomas Jefferson that an informed citizenry is at the heart of a dynamic democracy.

The World Affairs Councils of America supports the high-quality programs, educational initiatives, and operational excellence of its member Councils. Our common mission is to foster deeper understanding and public discussion of key global issues, provide community access to leaders and decision-makers, and prepare succeeding generations to thrive in a diverse and interdependent world.

Carlos Alvarez

Carlos Alvarez is CEO of The Gambrinus Company. Gambrinus, is a leader in the craft beer category that owns and operates three distinctive and independent craft breweries: the Spoetzl Brewery in Shiner, Texas; BridgePort Brewing in Portland, Oregon; and the Trumer Brewery in Berkeley, California.

As export manager for Grupo Modelo, he led the successful launch of Corona beer in the United States. In 1986, Alvarez moved from Mexico to San Antonio, Texas where he founded Gambrinus and was U.S. importer for Corona and other Modelo brands for the next 20 years.

Alvarez is a graduate of the Monterrey Institute of Technology in Monterrey, Mexico with a degree in Biochemical Engineering. He is very supportive of education, having contributed to educational institutions across the U.S., including several San Antonio schools and universities, and with a particular focus on scholarship funding. He currently serves on the boards of United Way of San Antonio, and the World Affairs Council both nationally and locally. He is a former trustee of Davidson College and School Year Abroad.

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