



## PRESS RELEASE

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### World Affairs Councils of America Hosts The Carlos and Malú Alvarez 2018 Academic WorldQuest™ National Competition

**Washington, DC** -- The World Affairs Councils of America (WACA) hosted the 16th annual Carlos and Malú Alvarez Academic WorldQuest™ National Competition, at the National Press Club on Saturday, April 28, 2018. Hundreds of high school teams have participated in the Academic WorldQuest (AWQ) competitions held by 45 World Affairs Councils across the country over the past school year. The local champions in these contests come to DC to vie for the national AWQ crown. Forty-five high school teams, consisting of four students each, participated in the 16th annual Academic WorldQuest National Competition, which tests students' knowledge of international relations, current events, and foreign policy issues.

#### **This year's winners:**

**First place:** Plano West Senior High School – World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth

**Second Place:** Palm Desert High School – World Affairs Council of the Desert

**Third place:** Indian Hill High School – World Affairs Council of Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky

“We congratulate these student teams – and all Academic WorldQuest participants – for their dedicated efforts to apply themselves at this pivotal moment in history to make sense of the world,” said WACA President Bill Clifford. “I am so pleased that the World Affairs Councils of America can play a role with educational partners like USIP and the Foreign Policy Association to encourage and inspire young people to think and act with global understanding.”

On Friday, April 27, 2018, the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), sponsor of ‘The Peacebuilding Toolkit’ category, held a welcome reception for the AWQ participants, teachers, and chaperones. USIP Executive Vice President Ambassador William Taylor welcomed the students.

“It was terrific to host the Academic WorldQuest reception at USIP for the second time this year. We value the partnership we have with WACA, through which we extend USIP’s reach to schools and communities across the country. And the student participants I met at the reception were so bright and energetic, it was a real pleasure to have an opportunity to engage with them.”

The competition is based on 10 topics and students are quizzed on 10 questions for each topic. The 2018 topics included: NAFTA, ASEAN at 50, India’s Bid for Global Power, Combatting Climate Change, Cybersecurity, Saudi Arabia, Great Decisions, The Peacebuilding Toolkit, America’s Diplomats, and Current Events.

WACA thanks its sponsors: The Gambrinus Company, Johnson + Sterling, the Foreign Policy Association, and Sasakawa USA. A special thanks to the United States Institute of Peace for its generous sponsorship and for hosting this year’s welcome reception.



The World Affairs Councils of America network consists of more than 90 non-partisan, non-profit councils across the country dedicated to educating and engaging the American public on global issues. Its programs reach approximately 500,000 people each year.

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