



PRESS RELEASE

www.worldaffairscouncils.org 1200 18th Street NW, Suite 902, Washington, DC 20036

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Contact: Rachel Pastor
Phone: 202-833-4557
Email: rpastor@worldaffairscouncils.org

World Affairs Councils of America Hosts The Carlos and Malú Alvarez 2019 Academic WorldQuest™ National Competition

Washington, DC -- The World Affairs Councils of America (WACA) hosted the 17th annual Carlos and Malú Alvarez Academic WorldQuest™ National Competition, at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) on Saturday, April 27, 2019. Academic WorldQuest (AWQ) is WACA's flagship youth education program that tests high school students' knowledge of international relations, current events, and foreign policy issues. Over a thousand high school teams have participated in local AWQ competitions held by over 50 World Affairs Councils across the country over the past school year, and the forty-five champion high school teams, consisting of four students each, came to DC to vie for the national AWQ crown.

This year's winners:

First Place: Jasper High School – World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth

Second Place: duPont Manual High School – World Affairs Council of Kentucky and Southern Indiana

Third Place: Mount Academy – World Affairs Council of Mid-Hudson Valley

This year's AWQ Principal Sponsor is the Embassy of the State of Qatar. At the close of the competition, Fatema Al Baker, Public Diplomacy Coordinator at the Embassy of the State of Qatar, congratulated all AWQ participants and presented the championship team with an unprecedented AWQ Prize: an all-expenses-paid Study Tour to Doha, Qatar, on June 21-27, 2019. The four members of the winning team and their teacher will be joined by the 10 winners of the WACA 2019 Qatar Essay/Video Contest and two WACA representatives.

“We are proud of our partnership with the World Affairs Councils of America, and of the opportunity to be part of the 2019 Academic WorldQuest National Competition,” said His Excellency Meshal bin Hamad Al Thani, Ambassador of the State of Qatar in the United States. “The bright student participants all have so much to offer their communities and the world, and the opportunity to engage with tomorrow’s leaders and host the winners in Doha is something we are looking forward to.”

On Friday, April 26, 2019, the Qatar-America Institute held a welcome reception for the AWQ participants, teachers, and chaperones. Deputy Chief of Mission Dr. Hamad Al-Muftah from the Embassy of the State of Qatar welcomed the students.

“We congratulate these student teams – and all Academic WorldQuest participants – for their optimism and dedicated efforts to learn about 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 Embassy of Qatar to inspire young people at this pivotal moment in history to become involved in international relations.”

The competition is based on 10 key global affairs issues and students are quizzed on 10 questions for each topic area. The 2019 topics included: Country in Focus: Qatar, How to Deal with North Korea, Global Refugee and Migration Crisis,



#WeAreNATO – The Alliance at 70, Great Decisions, The U.S.-Japan Alliance, Space Policy, World Trade Organization, Bridging Divides to Build Peace, and Current Events.

WACA thanks its sponsors: Embassy of the State of Qatar in the United States; Gambrinus Company; NATO; Johnson + Sterling; Sasakawa USA; the Foreign Policy Association; and the United States Institute of Peace. A special thanks to the Qatar-America Institute for hosting this year's welcome reception.

The World Affairs Councils of America network consists of more than 90 nonpartisan, nonprofit councils across the country dedicated to educating and engaging the American public on the critical foreign policy and global issues of our time.

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