



PRESS RELEASE

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World Affairs Councils of America Hosts The Carlos and Malú Alvarez 2021 Academic WorldQuest™ National Competition

Washington, DC -- The World Affairs Councils of America (WACA) hosted the 19th annual Carlos and Malú Alvarez Academic WorldQuest™ National Competition on Saturday, April 17, 2021. This was the first year WACA hosted the Academic WorldQuest (AWQ) National Competition virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic, following the cancellation of the 2020 AWQ National Competition. AWQ is WACA's flagship youth education program that tests high school students' knowledge of international relations, current events, and foreign policy issues.

This year's winners:

First Place: Plano West High School (Team 2) – World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth

Second Place: Allen High School – World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth

Third Place: Rampart High School – Colorado Springs World Affairs Council

This year's AWQ local competitions and the national competition were held remotely due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In past years, the top winning team from each local competition traveled to compete for the national title in Washington, DC. Because there would be no in-person element to this year's AWQ National Competition, registration was expanded to the top three winning teams from each local competition to enter. More than 400 students from 105 teams represented 38 Councils.

The competition is based on 10 key global affairs issues and students are quizzed on 10 questions for each topic area. The 2021 topics included: Global Protests; Shifting Sands: The Arab Spring 10 Years On; International Labour Organization (ILO); The U.S. Foreign Service in the 21st Century; Great Decisions; Country in Focus: Uzbekistan; Exploring Peace in a World of Conflict; Fraying Alliances; Looking to a Post-Pandemic Economy; and Current Events.

"I am completely blown away by the effort and heart that the students put into this year's Academic WorldQuest. The teachers, who already have so many demands placed on them, really put a lot of attention into their students' experiences. Our local Councils have also done a tremendous job sharing the experience of their local competitions – this really would not be possible without the incredible synergy that took place throughout the network this year! Huge kudos to everyone involved in the first-ever virtual Academic WorldQuest!" – Laura Duncan, Communications and Marketing, World Affairs Councils of America

WACA is grateful to our sponsors: United States Institute of Peace; the International Labour Organization; Embassy of the State of Qatar in the United States; Gambrinus Company; Johnson + Sterling; and the Foreign Policy Association.

The World Affairs Councils of America network consists of 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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