

OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Since 2010, legions of LAU students have engaged in community service and outreach coordinated by the Outreach and Civic Engagement unit (OCE), reaching more than 20,000 external beneficiaries through various volunteering activities. A year ago, we took over the United Nations Global Classrooms International Model UN conferences in New York, and also became host to the international GOLD conference in New York, all while implementing the Outreach and Leadership Academy in Sidon. This year, we continue to build on these achievements by deepening our institutional connections and reaching for yet more opportunities to serve our neighbors.

In addition to spearheading the Model United Nations conferences in New York, LAU continued to champion the cause of a world united for peace by hosting the Global Classrooms Lebanese American University Model United Nations (GC LAU MUN) here at home. This year, 200 LAU students trained 2,700 high- and middle-school students from 174 schools across Lebanon, registering the largest ever number of participants.

For half a decade, LAU has partnered with the Hariri Foundation to implement the Model Arab League program in Lebanon. This year, 100 LAU student leaders will train more than 1,000 students from 100 participating high-schools.

We are proud to announce the launching of the LAU Model EU (MEU) program, in which high-school students from across Lebanon will be trained by the university's student leaders in the fundamentals of the European Union, with a strong emphasis on diplomatic and leadership skills.

"I participated in Model UN conferences before, but this conference is more diverse. I've been assigned to represent Syria in ... committees on malnutrition. I hope to bring together other countries suffering from the same problem to create a global program to stop malnutrition."

— Sebastian Diaz-Herrera, Shelton Academy, Doral, Florida, 6th grade.

In spring 2016, LAU managed the United Nations Global Classrooms Model UN in New York City, bringing together more than 4,000 middle and high-school students from around the world to the Big Apple, to learn about diplomacy and the art of leadership at the home of the United Nations itself. The middle school conference in particular was a stunning success, being the largest-ever such program in history and bringing together more than 1,720 middle-school students from 26 countries and 28 American states.



Meanwhile, we expanded our list of partnerships in the field of civic engagement by signing an agreement with Civic Influence Hub (CIH), aimed at collaboration between CIH and LAU's academic core on macro policy planning as well as micro projects engaging students to stress the importance of civic involvement and social responsibility.

The participation of hundreds of LAU faculty, staff and students in the Beirut Marathon has become a tradition, embodying as it does our commitment to the community we live in. Last year, our team members ran in support of Lebanese NGO G which promotes a healthier environment, a cleaner earth and a more sustainable future.

In the same spirit, and with the belief to raise awareness against gender inequality, we also participated in the Beirut Marathon's Women's Race.

Finance major Youssef Taher, industrial engineering major Angelo Khoury, international affairs major Ameer Alsamman, and economics major Chadwa Alaa all won diplomacy awards at the Harvard MUN conference in Rome.



LAU students winning the debates at the recently launched Young Arab Voices.

First NGO symposium held at LAU, on Beirut campus, and involving more than 50 NGOs. Organized by OCE in cooperation with AKSOB.



The Outreach & Civic Engagement Unit, in collaboration with the School of Arts and Sciences, organized the first annual computing summer camp at the Outreach & Leadership Academy (OLA) in Sidon.