

BHS Students get first-hand experience in global leadership

Washington DC, U.S, December 1st, 2015

The Organization of American States (OAS) promotes and supports efforts by universities, schools and public or private institutions for the organization of Model OAS General Assembly (MOAS). The MOAS Program for high school students of the Hemisphere functions within the Office of the Assistant Secretary General (OASG) Ambassador Nestor Mendez of the OAS.

The MOAS 2015 held in Washington DC this week is the largest conference in recent years. All 34 OAS member countries are represented by 17 United States High Schools plus 8 International Country schools from Belize, Costa Rica, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Panama, and Puerto Rico.

This is Belize High School first representation at the MOAS but definitely not the last. Principal Jamie Lee Usher is extremely pleased with her students' performance and commitment. Having been assigned to represent the island nation of Barbados in October, preparation began fast and furious, with our delegates meeting weekly to prepare their position papers and research article rebuttals. The delegates are charged



Belize High School Principal, Jamie Lee Usher, and students attending the Model OAS General Assembly in Washington D.C.

with the responsibility to represent Barbados' interests, policies and perspectives on the topics of the agenda.

A total of 12 seniors from Belize High School have been working hard to debate, negotiate and have resolutions related to hemispheric issues:

Ms. Yashika Issrani and Mr. Tyler Eck represent Barbados on the General Committee: Migration in the Americas and Protection of human rights in business

Mr. Rolando Santos and Mr. Louis Sroka sit on the First Committee: Juridical and Political Affairs.

Mr. Ankit Chandwani and Mr. Anthony Navarrete sit on Second Committee: Hemispheric Security.

Miss Jasmine Betancourt and Miss Wendy Huiling Huang sit on the Third Committee: Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI).

Miss Shania Williams and Miss Dip-ti Karnani sit on the Special Committee:

Children and Youth.

Mr. Romeo Caruso and Mr. Amit Nandwani sit on the GET Committee: this committee works closely with the General Committee in producing declarations. Romeo Caruso has also been elected as Chair of this committee, an honor, as a first time participant.

The delegation is chaperoned by BHS Academic Advisor Ms. Michelle Arnold and by Principal Jamie Lee Usher.

At the opening ceremonies, coordinator of the MOAS Program Ms. Nelly Robinson and Ms. Jeymar Bichis, MOAS consultant, welcomed the over 400 participants and 50 faculty advisors to the 34th Model OAS General Assembly.

Also Present in the Hall of the Americas at the OAS Headquarters, were Belizeans: Mr. Mike Bejos, Ms. Kendal Belisle and Ambassador to the OAS, Ambassador Pat Andrews. Ms. Belisle had the honor of delivering the welcome address the entire assembly on behalf of Ambassador Mendez.

Ms. Belisle and Ambassador Andrews met with the delegation and even took time for a couple pictures.

The MOAS is an invaluable hands-on experience that encourages students to develop leadership and communication skills, as well as negotiation techniques, through the practice of diplomacy. Principal Usher confirms her school's annual participation in the MOAS activities as BHS continues to raise the bar of education and educational opportunities offered to high school students.

Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year