



Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation (CECF)

2012 Better Understanding for a Better World

March 7-11, 2012
San Diego, California

Co-Sponsor: Islamic Center of San Diego



- What:** 2012 Better Understanding for a Better World
When: March 7-11, 2012
Where: San Diego, CA
Who: CECF (<http://www.cecf-net.org/>) and the following participating institutions:
- Islamic Center of San Diego (<http://www.icisd.org/>)
 - Congregation Beth Israel (<http://www.cbisd.org/>)
 - St. Paul Cathedral (<http://www.stpaulcathedral.org/>)

CECF is offering its second annual conference in San Diego, CA to American high school students and ECA grant exchange students studying in the U.S. under the auspices of the Department of State's exchange programs.

Overview:

Youth are the hope of each nation, and the future of the world's civilization is soon to rest in their hands. The most pressing issue they face today is how to view the "Other." The threat of terrorism has brought with it a lot of fear, prejudice, hatred and suspicion of the "Other", which we aim to examine, discuss and transcend.

Better Understanding for a Better World began in 2006 with an annual conference in Orlando, FL. In 2008, CECF expanded this unique opportunity and included an annual conference in Baltimore, MD. After two more thriving years of BUBW Conferences in both Orlando and Baltimore, CECF expanded once more to include an annual BUBW Conference in San Diego, CA in 2010. These conferences were developed to bring together American high school students of diverse faiths and cultural backgrounds with international exchange students currently studying in the U.S. They have been tremendously successful and each year the students benefit in ways that are truly impressive.

Conference Mission:

- Facilitate mutual understanding and appreciation between students from diverse regional, economic, social, religious, cultural and ethnic backgrounds
- Discuss stereotypes about the "other" and their impact
- Learn about and discuss the practice of religion and faith in a pluralistic society with the objective of promoting tolerance, mutual respect, and an awareness of common values
- Introduce various aspects of leadership, including those involving business and entrepreneurship
- Forge ties of friendship between American high school students and students from around the world

While the focus of the conference is principally on Judaism, Christianity and Islam, participation is open to all faiths, as well as those who may not be active in a particular faith tradition.

Follow up after the Conference:

Students will be encouraged to maintain contact with each other and make a presentation in their schools or communities on the issues discussed during the conference. Alumni are welcome to join future International BUBW conferences.

Participants and Selection:

American and International high school students are encouraged to attend. International exchange students will represent the following programs sponsored by the Department of State: Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX), Youth Exchange and Study (YES), Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX), American Serbia and Montenegro Youth Leadership Exchange (A-SMYLE) and others. Exchange students will be selected by their exchange organizations and American students will be nominated by a staff member of their respective high schools or community /youth group leader.

Brief Conference Outline:

Wednesday, March 7: (Arrival, Dinner Social, Ice Breaking Games and Orientation)

- **Students should plan to arrive between 3:00 – 7:00 pm.**

Thursday, March 8: (Diversity & Cultural Understanding and Leadership)

- Main address “**The Role of Youth within the Family of Adam and Eve,**” elaborating on the need for “**Crossing the Divide,**” while developing an atmosphere of belonging, as well as cultural understanding and sensitivity, which leads to successful business interactions
- Breakout sessions, group discussions identifying problems facing the youth of today and ideas /activities for better cooperation on a personal, local and global level
- Cultural Sites in **Balboa Park** (*tbc*)
- Workshop on “**Leadership and the Importance of Youth Involvement**”
- Student presentations (**Student Volunteers**)

Friday, March 9: (Interfaith Visits and Panel Discussion)

- Visit local places of worship like a church, synagogue and mosque. Students will experience first hand similarities and differences within the house of Abraham.
- The visits will be followed by a panel discussion with the religious leaders involved in the day’s program.
- Dinner Cruise and Free-Time on the San Diego Bay

Saturday, March 10: (Rejoicing as One)

- Free-time in Sea World
- Banquet and Certificate Ceremony in the evening with a focus on “**The Spirit of Giving and Cooperation.**”

Sunday, March 11: (Wrap Up & Departure)

- **Students should try to schedule their departing flights between 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.**

Conference Price of \$650.00 includes:

- Registration/Participation in Conference
- Lodging at the **Best Western Seven Seas** – 4 nights - <http://www.bw7seas.com/> (*tbc*)
- 3 meals daily
- **Conference Session** at the **Town & Country Resort and Convention Center** on March 7th <http://www.towncountry.com/>
- Admission to sites at **Balboa Park** on the 10th (*tbc*) - <http://www.balboapark.org/>
- Interfaith Community Visits and Dinner Cruise on Friday, March 9th - <http://www.hornblower.com/hce/home/sd>
- Admission to **Sea World** on March 10th - <http://www.seaworld.com/sandiego/>
- **Banquet and Certificates Ceremony** at the **Town & Country Resort and Convention Center** on March 10th
- Transportation during the program, including from the **San Diego International Airport (SAN)** on Wednesday (3/7) to the hotel and back to the **San Diego International Airport (SAN)** on Sunday (3/11)

For more information or to register – contact us at cecf1@aol.com or call 410-944-6077