

## NEWS RELEASE

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## Area High Schoolers to Explore Future of Pakistan at USM's Starr Global Studies Institute 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Human Rights Conference

*Tuesday, April 20*



(Leavenworth, Kan.)—In order to help them better understand the complexities of the world they live in, the University of Saint Mary Lawrence D. Starr Global Studies Institute will host students from seven area high schools for a round of mock negotiations at USM's Fourth Annual Global Human Rights Conference for High School Students. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20, at the university's Leavenworth campus, 4100 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

Saint Mary students from the Global Context of Conflict class taught by Dr. Natalie Riegg, professor of political science and global studies, will facilitate the conflict resolution exercises.

Participating high school students will explore the complex history and uncertain future of Pakistan, a country beset by waves of challenges and a key player in the global war against terror. The students will role-play various parties with a stake in the country's future as they attempt to establish a meaningful dialogue and offer guidance.

"This program is a wonderful way to bring together a diverse mix of high school students to help expand their knowledge and global perspective," said Dr. Bryan Le Beau, USM's academic vice president. "By encouraging students to speak and to do, rather than passively listen, this exercise helps them build their critical thinking skills."

Participating high schools include Atchison, Bishop Le Blond, Bonner Springs, Cristo Rey, Lansing, Rockhurst, and St. Pius X. Last year's GSI Human Rights Conference, which focused on tensions between Russia and former Soviet Socialist Republic Georgia, drew over 100 area high school students.

Call (913) 758-6117 or visit <http://gsi.stmary.edu> for more information.

*The Lawrence D. Starr Global Studies Institute (GSI) is a professional academic organization dedicated to the examination of global integration and to the promotion of attitudes, policies, and practices that foster peace, justice, generosity, and the equitable enrichment of life for all members of the global community.*

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