

## NEWS RELEASE

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# Area High Schoolers to Examine Turkish-Armenian Conflict at USM's Starr Global Studies Institute 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Human Rights Conference *Tuesday, April 19*



(Leavenworth, Kan.)—In an effort to broaden their understanding of the larger world, the University of Saint Mary Lawrence D. Starr Global Studies Institute (GSI) will host students from high schools as far away as Topeka for a day of mock negotiations at USM's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Human Rights Conference for High School Students.

The conference runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19, 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.

The high school students in attendance will use a role-playing exercise scenario developed by USM students to explore the situation surrounding the 1915 large-scale massacres of Armenians in Turkey, the issues it created, and the ongoing tension in relations between Armenia and Turkey. As part of the talks, the students will role-play various parties with a stake in conflict as they try to work out their issues and find a peaceful solution. Saint Mary students—who helped develop the roles—will help guide the high schoolers during the negotiations.

“This program provides a remarkable opportunity for high school students to both better understand the world and exercise their own critical thinking skills,” said Ken Mulliken, director of the Global Studies Institute. “A conference like this makes learning an active experience.”

Participating local high schools include Atchison, Bonner Springs, Cristo Rey, Immaculata, Lansing, Pleasant Ridge, and St. Pius X. Students from Topeka High and Highland Park in Topeka, Kan., will also be involved.

Last year's GSI Human Rights Conference, which focused on the future of Pakistan, drew more than 100 area high school students. Organizers expect about 120 attendees this year.

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.*