



For Immediate Release
December 9, 2013

Media Contact: Candace Coakley, 617-513-5002
candacecoakley@comcast.net

***Acera School Students Win Top Awards
at United Nations Association of Greater Boston's
Middle School Model United Nations Conference***

Twenty-three Acera students participated in the United Nations Association of Greater Boston (UNA-GB) Middle School Model United Nations Conference held at Northeastern University on November 23, 2013. After months of rigorous preparation, four of the Acera middle school students received the "Outstanding Delegation" Award, the highest award given at the conference.

Each student was assigned a country to represent, a committee, and a topic for debate. The students learned the rules of debate, practiced public speaking, negotiating, and writing resolutions. Throughout the day-long conference, students debated a wide range of topics including climate change, cultural extinction, youth unemployment, crime prevention and criminal justice, and the rise of slums.

"Taking the perspective of other cultures, engaging in meaningful questions about real world problems, and envisioning the impact you can have to make a positive difference are critical capacities," said Acera Founder Courtney Dickinson. "Model UN is a core part of Acera's middle school program because it fosters this growth for our students."

Thomas Mayer (of Waltham) and Max Paul (of Medford) received the Outstanding Delegation Award for the Security Council. Jasmine Dimaculangan (of Medford) and Elizabeth Mulgrew de Laire (of Carlisle) received the Outstanding Delegation award for their work on the Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee.

Acera students are now preparing for the Boston University Academy Middle School Model United Nations Conference in February. United Nations Association of Greater Boston is dedicated to building a strong network of global citizens in the Boston area by informing, inspiring and mobilizing members of the community to engage with critical global issues.

Acera: The Massachusetts School of Science, Creativity and Leadership was founded in 2010 as an independent STEM school to meet the needs of high ability students by offering learning with a runway that honors each student's potential. Acera strives to develop the next generation of scientists, innovators, and leaders who can make a positive impact in the world. By offering accelerated students opportunities according to their abilities, rather than their age, Acera provides boundless access to learning.

Located in Winchester, MA, Acera also offers a wide range of after school enrichment programs including filmmaking, computer programming and carpentry that are open to the public. For more information, please visit www.aceraschool.org or call 781-729-3489.

#

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

- 1: Best Delegates to SOCHUM Elizabeth Mulgrew de Laire (left) and Jasmine Dimaculangan (right). (Henry Luetttgen and Leila Zisk of Acera are in the foreground).
- 2: Best Delegates to Security Council Max Paul (left) and Thomas Mayer (right).
- 3: Group Photo after the Awards Ceremony
- 4: Elizabeth Mulgrew de Laire and Jasmine Dimaculangan with their award, a gavel.