



Spera Speaks...

The Project Spera Quarterly Newsletter, Volume 2: Issue 4, October 2004

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Recruiting has begun for the World Affairs Challenge; its theme is

World Energy. The Challenge is an academic competition on international affairs administered by the Center for Teaching International Relations (CTIR) at the University of Denver. We expect over 400 students from 30 schools throughout Northern California to participate in this year's program. The Challenge event will be held on Saturday, October 23, at the University of Denver.

The Challenge provides students with an opportunity to work collaboratively as they explore an aspect of international affairs. Teams of 7-12 students will spend up to 12 weeks preparing a presentation on a topic related to energy and the environment. Teams start meeting by the beginning of December 2004. The culminating event is the World Affairs Challenge, during which students compete in four events that test their knowledge, their presentation skills, and their ability to work collaboratively. Through the four diverse elements, the World Affairs Challenge allows students with a variety of skills and backgrounds to increase their awareness of fundamental issues facing the global community while building valuable skills for academic and professional success.

In the 2005 World Affairs Challenge, students will be exploring issues related to the

World Energy Challenge. Through their participation, students will become aware of the world's current problems surrounding energy, with the goal of discovering viable solutions to empower the future and ensure a promising tomorrow.

The Challenge has grown rapidly in just two years. The event has been featured in the San Francisco Chronicle and has received enthusiastic support from local non-profits, businesses, elected officials, schools, and other community members.

For more information, and to download a registration form, please visit our website. Contact Madiha Murshed with questions or to discuss how to organize a team.

Project Spera has launched a new website with more information about our programs and services, a live news feed, and lots of resources for students and teachers. Thanks to Roni Terkel and Jennifer Wasson (www.wassondesign.com) for their help in design and development.

After-school Program Launches at 4 Sites

Our after-school program, _____ has commenced at four sites in San Francisco, with approximately 50 students registered. The program uses innovative strategies to teach international affairs with a focus on media literacy, problem solving and project-based instruction.

Our program provides a nurturing environment that challenges young people to engage in their community and the world, as well as excites their curiosity and motivation to learn. All curricula is designed and implemented to provide youth with the skills necessary for academic, professional and personal success in increasingly diverse and complex environments.

Throughout the year, students also implement service projects to promote active civic engagement and demonstrate connections between local actions and global outcomes. The projects focus on building practical leadership skills such as problem solving, planning, interviewing and advocacy.

We would like to thank Greg O'Toole and Rivkah Beth Meadow of Sati Media in Berkeley for their tireless efforts in support of the service projects at the Community Bridges Beacon Center at Everett Middle School.

The _____ Program at one site is producing a video documentary about the lives and experiences of three refugee families in collaboration with International Rescue Committee in San Francisco and generous support from Sati Media in Berkeley. Other after-school program projects include supporting local animal shelters, raising funds for refugee families in the Bay Area, and conducting a mock election in school.

Professional Development Program

Project Spera provides programs and services to help teachers incorporate global education into curriculum. We work mostly with middle and high schools and teachers in the San Francisco Bay Area. We have successfully launched the Spera Educators Network, an opportunity for teachers to join a group of educators in the Bay Area who are incorporating global issues into their curriculum. Partnering teachers are offered a basic package of services that includes initial planning time and ongoing consulting by Project Spera staff through the year.

Annual Fundraising Appeal

Project Spera has just launched our third annual fundraising drive. Please help us reach our goal of _____

You can donate online at www.projectspera.org. Your contribution supports programs that make an enormous impact on the education and future of youth.

In the 2004-5 Academic Year...

- _____ supports a student for a semester in our after-school program
 - _____ supports a student participant in the 2005 World Affairs Challenge
 - _____ supports a student for a year through our Professional Development Program
-

1. Project Spera is a community partner of _____ . When purchasing groceries at any of their family of stores anywhere in the United States--including _____ and _____ --you can ensure that a portion of your grocery bill is donated to Project Spera. This does not cost anything extra and it only takes a moment to sign up! Sign up from our website at <http://www.projectspera.org/involved/donate.html>.
2. Support Project Spera while saving money on your holiday shopping! Simply present a special coupon at _____ locations in San Francisco from December 5 - 12 and receive a discount off any purchase. In turn, Sports Basement will donate a portion of all purchases made with this coupon to Project Spera. The coupon will be circulated in a few days and will be available on our website shortly.

Funding and Support Update

Project Spera is happy to report that we were recently awarded grants from the _____ and _____

The following individuals provided generous support since our last newsletter:

Alex Lee	John Elliot
Ana Plasencia	John Lorange
Andersen Fisher	Justin Reyna
Ariane Zewe	Kate Beardsley
Brad Walsh	Katharine Strunk
Cameron Kramlich	Kristine Erving
Cara Brennan	Linda and Steven Brion-Meisels
Carl Adams	Maher and Yasmeeen Murshed
Cecile Hardy	Mark Sanchez
Chrissy Cupp	Mathias Mortenson
Cindy Huang	Matt Tennant
Claire Haldan	May Tien
Cullen and Jan Wiginton	Mel Ochoa
David and Patricia Oro	Melissa Irwin
Amie Jordan	Michael Moss
Cholpon Nazarmatova	Mindi Ehrlich
Debra Luna, Ed.D.	Naomi Atkins
Emily Eagar	Nate Anthony
Gary Reiss	Pete Hammer
Geoff Kertsz	Rita Yee
Gretchen Brion-Meisels	Ryan Tiffany
Hannah Arthur	Santeri and Mariah Voutilainen
Jacob Meyer	Summer Riley
Jacob Perea	Tiffany Schneider
Jay Bradford	Vanessa Blaikie
Jeff Savaje	Joey Piziali
Jillian Waterfield	Whitney Mogers
John Bickford	

Project Spera successfully hosted the _____ on October 14, 2004 at Café Royale in San Francisco. Special thanks to Kate Dumbleton at Cafe Royale for hosting the event, and to The Yoga Loft, Trader Joe's Specialty Grocery Stores, Festoon Salon, and Cheese Board for sponsoring the event. We would also like to thank the members of the Welcoming Committee and our Media and Outreach Advisory Committee for their help in making the evening a success.

Thank you for your support! Your investment will ensure that we continue to help California's students explore global issues and embrace an international perspective.

Media and Outreach Advisory Committee

Since our last newsletter, one more person has joined our Advisory Committee on Media and Outreach.

_____ works as an evaluation assistant at the Family & Child Guidance Clinic at the Native American Health Center.

Many, many thanks to the members of the Advisory Committee – _____, _____, _____, _____ and _____ – for their hard work as we updated our website and media materials with a new look. They spent many hours working with us and we appreciate all their efforts!

Seeking New Advisory Committee Members!

If you are interested in volunteering with Project Spera as a member of our Development or Media & Outreach Committees, please contact us for further details. Committee members will work with staff to plan and execute outreach and fundraising events, and expand our community of supporters.

Volunteers and Interns

We continue to be incredibly fortunate to have the talent and dedication of eight interns who are working on various aspects of development and program implementation.

_____ joined Project Spera as a teaching assistant in January and continues to provide support for our development and fundraising efforts.

_____ joined us in June to conduct research and maintain our development program.

_____ and _____ work with us to design and implement the Get Global! After-school programs at four sites. _____ and _____

_____ provide assistance in organizing the World Affairs Challenge.

We are so very fortunate to have such an incredible group of people on our team!

For upcoming opportunities to get involved or volunteer, please consult our website at www.projectspera.org.
