

My participation in WorldQuest Trivia contest

On April 14th, 2017, I was privileged to participate in a WorldQuest Trivia competition held by the Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy (a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting global understanding and respect between the people of Utah and other nations) in Salt Lake City at Westminster University. The event was a fund-raising contest between universities, colleges, NGOs and businesses from the State of Utah in a world trivial pursuit with over 224 participants. The Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy (UCCD) held the event for the 4th time and its categories for competition this year included global megacities, women in technology, peace and conflict, the European Union, combating infectious diseases, and current events. I was the captain of the Utah Valley University (UVU) team, which had in addition to myself the following six UVU students, originally from France, Russia, China and Utah, who agreed to join the contest: Tenika Ray, John Cummings, Pierre Chesnais, Elizabeth Paschenko, Kyle Balcer, and Anthony Franks. Our participation at the event was organized by Dr. Hong Pang, Assistant Professor of Political Science at UVU, who also works closely with UCCD and Westminster college as well.

Upon arrival to Westminster University we received UVU school team shirts, had our pictures taken, and were provided a buffet dinner. Before the competition began, we had time to socialize with other competitors from different parts of the State of Utah and region; it was culturally uplifting to see so many different people come together. There were many competitors who dressed up in traditional clothing as a sign of pride of what different cultures they came from. Our small team did not take long to become familiar and comfortable with each other and personally I can say that I enjoyed my time with them. I was surprised to see how well we did together; it is events such as this that help connect people with different backgrounds but similar

minds. I had fun and was able to learn so much from topics discussed during the contest. After the competition, I spoke with one of the directors of the event Felecia Maxfield-Barrett and she told me that the main purpose of the event being held was to connect like-minded people and help them to become aware of what is happening on global level.

WorldQuest Trivia competition is helpful for students and youth to learn about international affairs, sharpen their minds and raise awareness about most urgent challenges facing humanity. It will be important for UVU students to both participate in future contests and to host similar events at UVU campus.

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