



**highschoolNGOconnect.org™**

*...where high school students meet global change makers  
in nongovernmental humanitarian relief organizations (NGOs)*

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## **Paterson NJ Schools Launch Academic Program that Spotlights Global Humanitarian Organizations**

*Interactive **highschoolNGOconnect.org** transports classrooms via Skype to non-governmental humanitarian aid organizations around the world.*

December 7, 2016 — The Paterson Board of Education has voted to make International High School the first site for [highschoolNGOconnect.org](http://highschoolNGOconnect.org)™, a nonprofit academic enrichment program that introduces students via digital means to global leaders in non-governmental humanitarian aid organizations, known as NGOs.

“We are pleased to launch this new program in Paterson, a pivotal city in American history. Introducing modern students to worldwide humanitarian organizations furnishes access to a global future,” said **highschoolNGOconnect.org** executive director Steven Mintz. “With enrichment rooted in the highest teaching standards, Paterson public school students can match the academic performance of peers anywhere.”

Up to eight students selected in their junior year focus on non-governmental organizations winning daily humanitarian battles against hunger, conflict, poverty and environmental decay on five continents. Each program comprises six classes over six weeks with three scheduled NGO interviews. IHS cultural liaison chairperson Kathy Esquiche will teach the pilot program.

In addition to seeing global citizenship in action, students can manage telecommunications links, conduct interviews with NGO leaders and devise solutions to social challenges abroad and near home. They’ll also leverage social media and blogs to generate support for causes that matter to them. Mindful of teenage interests, **highschoolNGOconnect.org** will probe music and art arising from repression and dislocation.

“The skills-oriented curriculum hones planning, critical thinking and communication expertise,” explained International High School principal Robina Puryear-Castro, “all of which are valuable in

school, careers or mobilizing communities.” International High School, one of 12 high school academies in New Jersey’s third largest city, enjoys a reputation for educating motivated, high-achieving students who succeed in college and careers.

The nonprofit mission of **highschoolNGOconnect.org** aligns with state and local educational mandates. New Jersey urges school districts to make academic enrichment available to students from all social, cultural and economic backgrounds. Paterson, which lately has recorded steady gains in student performance across the board, emphasizes increased student motivation and achievement, healthy school cultures, improved graduation rates, student-teacher cooperation and family and community engagement.

Classes begin on January 17. **HighschoolNGOconnect** is poised to expand after the conclusion of the pilot program. *We welcome inquiries from high schools and from NGOs.*

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*Launched in 2016, **highschoolNGOconnect.org**<sup>™</sup> offers free, global-minded academic enrichment to urban, suburban and rural high schools where more than half of the students are eligible for free or subsidized meals. After-school classes adhere to a rigorous curriculum taught by local teachers with special preparation from **highschoolNGOconnect.org**. The core skills-building mission is threefold: 1) connect students via Skype to inspirational change-makers in worldwide non-governmental humanitarian relief organizations (NGOs), 2) equip compassionate students to champion humanitarian goals, and 3) spur bold nonprofit leadership that eases local social problems. The program is poised to expand in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York State high schools. **HighschoolNGOconnect.org** is offered by the High School Network for Global Philanthropy, Inc., in Montclair, New Jersey.*

**About Paterson Public Schools:** *The Paterson Public School District is a diverse urban school district located in northern New Jersey. As the third largest school district in New Jersey, the district enrolls over 28,000 students in 56 schools to accommodate students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12. The school district’s strategic plan focuses on four priorities: Effective Academic Programs; Creating & Maintaining Healthy School Cultures; Family & Community Engagement; and Efficient & Responsive Operations. For more information, visit [www.paterson.k12.nj.us](http://www.paterson.k12.nj.us).*

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