



October 20, 2022

Dear Facilitator:

Thank you for participating in one of the Global Solutions Programs, a project that connects students in the US with their peers in Iraq and Jordan. The Global Solutions Sustainability Challenge engages students during the eight-week period to virtually collaborate on a sustainable solution to a contemporary business challenge. Throughout the challenge participants develop global citizenship, workforce skills and network with industry professionals. The Global Solutions Conversations engages students through a series of six binational group discussions, applying design thinking as they share about their culture, discuss global issues and brainstorm sustainable solutions in their community around the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Through virtual exchange participants improve mutual understanding, cross-cultural communication, empathy and problem-solving skills.

Global Solutions is a program of IREX and is supported by the Stevens Initiative. The Stevens Initiative is an international effort to build global competence and career readiness for young people in the United States and in the Middle East and North Africa while growing and enhancing the field of virtual exchange: online, international, and collaborative learning. The Initiative is managed by the Aspen Institute and supported by the U.S. Department of State in addition to several governments, foundations, and companies, and honors Ambassador Chris Stevens, an American diplomat who was killed in an attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, in 2012. Ambassador Stevens dedicated his career to building bridges of dialogue and understanding between cultures. Global Solutions is a special opportunity to carry on Ambassador Stevens's legacy.

Virtual exchange can be a powerful tool to connect young people and give them a new window to the world. More and more jobs require language skills, digital literacy, collaboration with people from diverse backgrounds, and the ability to understand the impact of global issues on our lives and our societies. We applaud your commitment to helping your students learn these critical skills, which will prepare them to lead in their careers and in their communities. We look forward to inviting you and your participants to the Stevens Initiative Alumni community at the end of your program.

If you are interested in learning more about the Stevens Initiative or having a member of the Stevens Initiative or the Department of State visit your classroom, please contact us at 202-736-2282 or stevensinitiative@aspeninstitute.org.

Sincerely,

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