

Bringing the World to Mercy So Students Can Take on the World

As the world becomes ever more interconnected, events that bring global issues closer to Mercy students — and ideally present diverse perspectives — are even more important.

And the Mercy College Center for Global Engagement (CGE) does just that. CGE is a college-wide center at Mercy that facilitates the exchange of knowledge and cultural perspectives across all boundaries and provides transformative global learning opportunities for students, faculty and staff of the College and the wider community. This work is central to achieving Mercy's mission, which commits to preparing students to act ethically and responsibly in a changing world.

"Building on Mercy's strong International Relations and Diplomacy Program, there's a need to foster global awareness and an understanding of international connectedness across all majors," said Saul Fisher, Ph.D., associate provost for research, grants and academic initiatives. "There are global issues that affect nursing, business and every other discipline. In addition, what happens in other countries halfway around the world will most likely affect our students and our community, at some point. That's why it's essential for students to engage with global issues."

Many CGE events are driven by current events. For example, at the start of the Russia-Ukraine war, the CGE hosted a fascinating panel of experts in economics, sociology, business and journalism who provided attendees with historical and modern context for the invasion. During the Black Lives Matter movement, CGE gathered faculty from Mercy and other institutions to form two panels that examined both national and global perspectives on the movement. The panels discussed diverse topics

- ranging from the racial disparities
- in mental health care in the United States and the resonance of Black Lives Matter with movements across the world.

- a role in helping Mercy students discover new worlds beyond what they knew before and understand that they cannot neglect what happens beyond their city, state and country. In fact,



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- Every year, CGE also honors many of the international days observed by the United Nations such as the International Day of Tolerance, World Toilet Day and World Philosophy Day. For International Day of Peace, for example, CGE hosted three U.N. peacebuilding experts who discussed ways to build and sustain peace on both the global and local levels. Mercy College is a member of the United Nations Department of Global Communication's Civil Society Unit and United Nations Academic Impact, and CGE appoints representatives from Mercy College to each initiative, including two youth representatives. Fisher's hope is that CGE plays

- Fisher suggested that "The most successful college graduates are going to be the ones who ask themselves questions such as: How can I best understand and relate to the global environment for my services, products and other contributions to society? Am I looking beyond the local and national to think broadly about how our actions affect one another in an interconnected world?" After attending thought-provoking and timely CGE events during their time at Mercy, graduates will no doubt be well-prepared to contemplate such important questions throughout their lives.