



Who Is Who

Multiculturalism for the Common Good

Buddies Without Borders Online Forums
October 25, 2025 - December 13, 2025

	From USA / Liberia	The Honorable Dr. Teta V. Banks is a diplomat, educator and human rights advocate. Her parents were civil rights colleagues of Dr. King and Mrs. Rosa Parks. Dr. Banks is the first woman of African descent to be elected as Chair of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) and also previously as Chair of the United Nations Association- USA. She is also Vice-President of the Council of Organizations. Her company, the International Forum, is a leading educational and corporate consulting organization that provides training, analysis, research, speakers' series, curriculum development, and educational international experiences throughout the world. It has collaborated with corporations, government agencies, and NGOs to advance the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.
	Hon. Teta V. Banks, Ed.D. President International Forum, Inc. Chair, Executive Committee World Federation of United Nations Associations	
	From Australia / France	With tertiary qualifications in English Literature and Language, Sociology and Education, Andrew is a broadly experienced secondary educator who served 40 years as a teacher, administrator and educational leader in state and international schools in Australia, Malaysia, Switzerland, the United States and Germany, including the International School of Geneva and the United Nations International School, New York. Most recently he has recruited students for Forward College in Europe. He has led international education committees within the Educational Collaborative for International Schools and the Association of Australasian IB Schools. Andrew has also served on the Advisory Board of Pioneering Schools.
	Andrew Hand Consultant in International Education	
	From Morocco	Kaoutar is a Moroccan Arabic and French language teacher. She has worked at George Washington Academy in Morocco for the past twelve years, including five years as the IB CAS coordinator. Her current role is the Office Coordinator for the Primary school, working with the administration to develop positive interpersonal relationships with the community. She is also a member of the AISA (Association of International Schools in Africa) Service learning group, building a global community in which everyone belongs and feels valued to promote positive change towards a better future and where societies are fair for all. Her goal with GED is to offer a global citizenship education experience to students.
	Kaoutar Benkaddi Language Teacher George Washington Academy Morocco	

Board Member/Panelist

Board Member/Panelist

SDG Moderator/ Panelist



Guest Panelist

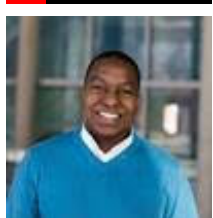
From the USA

Gina McBean-Linton

Former Director of
International Student
Programs

Our Lady of Good Counsel
High School

Gina McBean-Linton is an international education professional dedicated to fostering belonging, cross-cultural understanding, and student success. As the former Director of International Student Programs at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Maryland, she led admissions, advising, and cultural programming for students representing more than 20 countries. With over seven years of experience in international student recruitment and program management, she has developed inclusive initiatives that promote intercultural learning, mental-health awareness, and community engagement. A passionate advocate for global education, she served on the board of Schools with International Programs of Excellence (SWIPE) and is a member of NAFSA: Association of International Educators and the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel.



Panelist

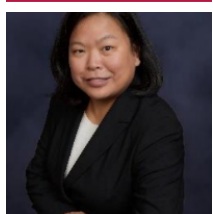
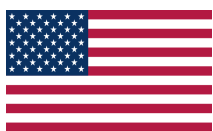
From UAE

**Angolwisye (Ango)
Paul Mwakisu**

Senior Assistant Director of
International Admissions

NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE

Ango Mwakisu has been serving as a recruitment and admissions officer for more than 10 years. Originally from the beautiful land of Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar, Tanzania, Ango is an alumnus of Jacobs University in Germany where he received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in Communications, Systems and Electronics. He is an active member of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the Collegeboard and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee of the International Association for College Admission Counseling.



Panelist

From USA

Lisa Brunet

Founder/CEO

Potato Tech Corporation
REN3for
DLZP Group

Lisa Brunet is the CEO and Founder of several technology companies offering innovative technology solutions for organizations leveraging AI. DLZP works closely with Amazon Web Services, Oracle, and Canon. Her two new ventures, Ren3for and Potato Tech reflect her commitment to harnessing the power of AI to create impactful and forward-thinking services. Ren3for offers a Power and Weather Prediction solution, which empowers renewable energy companies with the ability to forecast weather conditions up to 96 hours in advance with an impressive 99% accuracy.



Award Sponsor

From the USA

Marshall Bailly

Executive Director

Leadership Initiatives, US

For more than 15 years, Leadership Initiatives has partnered with outstanding high school students to gain real-world experience, explore future careers, develop leadership skills and experience college life. By working to help break the cycles of poverty and dissatisfaction that plague so many communities worldwide, Leadership Initiatives connects small businesses with grassroots development in underserved communities in Africa. In total, Leadership Initiatives has created over 54 businesses, expanded 27 businesses and supported over 10,000 US student internships in the process.



Negotiation Guide Presenter

From the USA

Nicole Bohannon

ESG Research Associate

International Shareholder
Services, USA

Nicole Bohannon is a research associate for ISS. She performs research on labor rights, sustainability, environmental and social and corporate governance (ESG) issues to be voted on at annual and special shareholder meetings of publicly traded companies. Nicole ran the global education program at the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area for several years. She graduated with her master's degree at King's College London. Prior to working at the UN Association, she worked in political fundraising, nonprofits, and consulting firms in Washington, DC. She graduated from George Washington University with a BA in International Relations and Affairs with concentrations in Latin America and Europe & Eurasia.



ELL Skills Guide Presenter

From Vietnam

Nhu Anh Nguyen

English Literature and
Language Teacher

Hanoi Academy, Vietnam

Nhu Anh has taught English at Vinschool and Hanoi Academy in Vietnam. Her approach to teaching is to place students at the center of all lessons and to design all class activities and assessments to meet individual needs. Nhu Anh believes that each student is unique and she is energized by creating new ways to best support them. Reflecting on her own journey of education in Vietnam, and seeing the challenges still faced by Vietnamese students today as they enter the global education system, Nhu Anh has decided to pursue her MA in Education at Colorado State University in the USA in the near future, while continuing teaching English through her own creative language program.



IB Skills Guide Presenter

From Ireland

Shane Hanna

International Student and
IB Diploma Programme
Coordinator

Villiers School, Ireland

Shane Hanna has been a teacher for over 15 years. Shane has been teaching English as an Additional Language and English B alongside his role as International Student Coordinator. He is a Steering Committee member of Philosophy Ireland, and a practitioner of P4C (Philosophy for Children) and CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning). He has been a guest speaker at the University of Limerick, Maynooth University and Trinity College Dublin. Shane holds a Master's Degree in Education from Trinity College Dublin and is currently working towards PhD in the University of Limerick.



Forum Director

From Zimbabwe

Chiedzamatipa Banga

Senior Student

Sciences Po Paris

Campus de Reims

Chiedza-Matipa Banga is originally from Zimbabwe, but has spent her entire life travelling. During her time in high school she had the pleasure of being part of a BWB Forum where she won Best Video Presentation, and has since been working with Global Education Destinations in various roles to empower young change-makers around the world. Right now she is studying a dual degree of Political Science and Visual Art in the UBC-Sciences Po programme, and continues to help in her local community through working in Agora Cafe, a sustainable food cafe for less-fortunate students.



Forum Scorer

From Spain

Yohana Fontenla

University Student

Economics & Politics and
Business Leadership
Forward College, Berlin

Yohana is a dual bachelor's student in Economics & Politics at the London School of Economics and Business Leadership at Forward College. Having lived in Spain, Portugal, France, and Germany, she embraces a holistic international perspective. She is passionate about education, social justice, leadership, strategy, and sustainability. She is an EU Climate Pact Ambassador, she has collaborated with the European Commission and UNICEF in several events related to climate change. She has also worked and led several projects and start-ups. Yohana is committed to working towards positive global changes and helping others.



Team Coach
Workshop Presenter

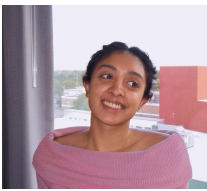
From the USA

Vallon Bucayu-Lee

Social and Behavioral
Sciences Major

California State University
at Monterey Bay, USA

Vallon grew up as a Third Culture Kid attending American International Schools in China, Jordan, and South Africa, as well as living in multiple cities within the United States. Her passion for multiculturalism and celebrating diversity inspired her senior project, "Global Nomads: Identity and Belonging in Third Culture Kids (TCKs) and Adult Third Culture Kids (ATCKs)," which explores the interactions that American international school students have with self-identity and belonging. In addition, her research emphasizes the importance of global education and transitional programs that can help cultivate healthy identity development while lowering psychological impacts related to grief, stress, and culture shock within the multicultural mind.

	From UAE/Iran Harry Haghani Computer Science Major, University of Otago New Zealand	Parsa (Harry) Haghany served as a BWB Club President at Towheed Iranian International School, United Arab Emirates, from 2022-2024. He has led efforts in SDG12 and SDG13 in his local community, and he continues to support the younger generation in developing their skills to become effective global citizens. Currently, Harry studies Computer Science at the University of Otago, New Zealand. He is passionate about building practical, user-focused solutions through independent projects that aim to simplify everyday life.
	Team Coach	
	From the USA Megha Siripurapu Neuroscience Major University of Texas at Dallas, USA	Megha was a a Pioneer Nominee for her performance in the Women and the Economy Forum in Spring 2023. She was one of the Top Finishers in the Access to Healthcare Forum in Spring 2024. Her team also won the most votes for their final proposal. Megha would like to continue to be involved with BWB and workshops to help other high school students navigate the forums.
	Team Coach	
	From Romania/Netherlands Filip Manda University Student Rijksuniversiteit Groningen Netherlands	Filip Manda (Forum Coach) is from Romania and is currently living in the Netherlands, where he studies biology at the RUG (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen). Filip is excited to rejoin the BWB community as a team coach after participating in a previous forum.
	Panelist	
	From New Zealand Krishna Karippail BWB Club President Green Bay High School	Krishna is a third-term BWB Club President at the Green Bay High School in New Zealand. Krishna and her clubmates founded a “Club Expo Day” that promotes opportunities for fostering engagement and unity on campus. Krishna won the Pioneer Award and ranked among the Top Five Finishers for her accomplishments in the Local Actions for Global Goals Forum earlier in 2025. As a result, Krishna is now representing BWB in the Leadership Initiatives International Internship program as Team Lead of one of the Buddies Without Borders Law & Advocacy teams.
	Peer Panelist / Workshop	