Global Campaign for Education – US 2018-2019 Highlights

The Global Campaign for Education-US (GCE-US) has made great strides toward its mission of promoting education as a basic human right and creating political will in the United States and internationally to ensure global, quality education, which is at the core of all human development. During this timeframe, GCE-US made significant progress, including the following accomplishments.

Youth Engagement:

- Convened, led and supported over 100 youth advocates to promote global education in their communities. GCE-US led mobilization in the US and around the world for Global Action Week for Education with the 2019 global theme of “Our Education, Our Rights” to encourage awareness of the over 260 million children globally who are out-of-school and promote year-round action aimed at making the right to inclusive, equitable, quality, free public education a reality. GCE-US created the Student and Teacher Activity Guide and sparked action for thousands of advocates.
- In March 2019, GCE-US facilitated a workshop on inclusive education advocacy during UNICEF USA’s Annual Summit with hundreds of advocates for children. Students and advocates created action plans to contact their policymakers to take action in support of the Education Cannot Wait Fund for education in emergencies.
- In April 2019, GCE-US and UNICEF USA met with global studies students from Drexel University to discuss child rights and global education, developing new partnerships for ongoing youth, student and faculty engagement.
- In May 2019, GCE-US met with Preparing Women to Lead (PLEN) students to discuss what it means to be a leading advocate on education issues. The seminar reached 54 young women - 30% of whom were first generation college students - from 26 different colleges and universities. After the seminar: 95% of survey respondents reported they could explain how policy is made at the international level and 95% were confident as a result of this session about their skills to start a career in global education policy.
- In July 2019, GCE-US facilitated global education training with over 50 students across three sessions from the AMP Global Scholar program to discuss the global education agenda and
how to plan for successful advocacy strategies. Global Scholar is an intensive international relations program that advances the knowledge and skills high school and college students need to make social change on a local and global scale.

- In August 2019, GCE-US supported member She’s the First in launching the Global Girls' Bill of Rights to prepare for International Day of the Girl (October 11), which engages girls and young women ages 13-22 to submit their top ten rights and take part in this worldwide movement. GCE-US also joined the International Youth Day Transforming Education partnership with the UN Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) through the #TransformEducation Campaign, a youth-powered mission to step up efforts for gender equality.

- In November 2019, GCE-US held a Youth Engagement Partnership Strategy Session with 260 by 26, Child Fund, GCE, Global Scholars, PDRC, PLEN, RESULTS and youth leaders to share ideas and best practices about how to engage with youth and inspire them to become active in policymaking processes and global education initiatives.

Coalition Engagement and Communications:

- GCE-US led coalition and partner meetings to ensure quality, inclusive and equitable education, including disability-accessible education and early childhood development, gender equity, girls’ and women’s education, education in emergencies, literacy, numeracy, critical thinking skills, life skills, and global education knowledge sharing.


- GCE-US invited coalition members and partners to share global education programming lessons, promising practices, and impact stories. Highlights included:
  - **Little Ripples in Tanzania, with new GCE-US member iACT** - Little Ripples, an early childhood education program, empowers refugees and communities affected by humanitarian crises to deliver child-centered, quality, and comprehensive pre-primary education.
  - **Teaching in Remote Areas with GCE-US member Educate the Children in El Salvador.**
• **Inclusive Education Tools with GCE-US member Bank Information Center**, with country focus in Nepal and Uganda.

• GCE-US hosted member ChildFund International for a forum on Preventing School-Based Violence in April 2019, highlighting country and community-specific efforts to prevent school-based violence.

• GCE-US organized a roundtable discussion at the Brookings Center for Universal Education with the Minister of Education from Ghana, expanding civil society advocacy to include global education advocates from IREX, NEA, Pencils for Promise, Focal Point Global, Oxfam International, and GCE.

• During the World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings, GCE-US board member Mahpari Sotoudeh moderated a dialogue with civil society members, Yasmine Sharif and the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) Secretariat to discuss progress and ways to ensure quality, inclusive education in emergency and crisis settings.

• GCE-US and coalition members met with senior officials in November 2019 at the Millennium Challenge Corporation, a U.S. foreign assistance agency, to discuss READ Act implementation and advocate for long-term, inclusive education funding.

**Policy Advocacy:**

• In March 2019, [GCE-US Senior Policy Advisor Ronnate Asirwatham testified with U.S. policymakers](#) (picture below), advocating for the international basic education budget to be fully funded. GCE-US led successful, sustained advocacy throughout the year to ensure global education funding.

• GCE-US led engagement at all levels across US Government to ensure full participation from civil society and successful advocacy for early childhood development, disability inclusion, education in emergencies, girls’ and women’s education, and full funding to ensure quality, inclusive, equitable education for all.
• Grassroots Advocacy: Increased VoterVoice campaigning for constituency advocacy in coordination with policy, youth advocacy and social media outreach efforts, leading to US government support for global education priorities, including the Global Partnership for Education, Education Cannot Wait, and US international basic education appropriations.

• Throughout the year, GCE-US proposed policy solutions and mobilized advocates to address global access gaps to early and primary education especially for girls, children with disabilities, and displaced children; provided input on the new US Government International Basic Education Strategy; and led consultations between civil society advocates and the US government. GCE-US also supported global education funders, specifically USAID, the World Bank, and Global Partnership for Education, to create policies and processes which moved inclusive education from the fringes of global education funding to its core focus areas.

• Education Cannot Wait (ECW) Fund for Education in Emergencies: Expanded partnership between ECW staff and the US-based global education community, in coordination with the GCE-US Education in Emergencies Advocacy Working Group. Led meetings between education advocates, policymakers and ECW staff in April, July and September. Advocated to develop support across US government among appropriators, State Department and USAID budget decision makers, and NGO education and humanitarian advocates, leading to the first-ever congressional support for Education Cannot Wait and funding during the current administration, with $12 million for ECW announced by USAID on September 25, 2019.


• GCE-US collaborated with RESULTS to lead global advocacy in support of Right to Education Index (RTEI) mobilization at the United Nations in July 2019 and research for the Right to Education Index in the US for 2018-19 and identify priority recommendations to improve the right to education. This advocacy supported right to education partners in Brazil, Indonesia, Kenya, and Uganda.

• United Nations Advocacy: GCE-US joined global partners and successfully advocated for the 2019 Sustainable Development Goal Summit political declaration to include quality education, which was left out of earlier policymaker drafts.
In July 2019, GCE-US, in partnership with RESULTS and Light for the World, convened the special event, "Unifying the Playing Field: local and global moments to advance the right to education" during the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to highlight the work of in-country partners and accelerate progress on education advocacy. Throughout the day leaders from around the globe shared insights on the best practices and challenges we need to overcome for building sustainable, gender equitable, inclusive, peaceful and resilient societies. Over 1,000 people have viewed the event livestream, with estimated total scope across partners of 28,842 impressions and 1,608,842 reach (picture below).

GCE-US implemented a new partnership with Light for the World and the Open Society Foundation’s Early Childhood Program to host a Disability-Inclusive Education Advocacy Officer and mobilize a network of coalition partners and global education champions to engage with US government officials to strengthen research, and policy and implementation for inclusive early childhood education.

The GCE-US Inclusive Education and Early Childhood Development Community of Practice (CoP) launched in January 2019, the result of needs identified within the global inclusive education movement. The overarching goal of the CoP is to identify and centralize efforts on cohesive advocacy strategies across organizations and regions, to share knowledge, and develop and promote best practices. Thirty-five individuals representing over 25 organizations participated in the initial CoP meeting in January 2019. Since that initial meeting, the CoP has quickly grown to include 118 individuals and over 60 organizations, illustrating strong interest and demand for this work. GCE-US will continue to support this successful pilot program while seeking replication of the CoP in other settings, especially those most in need and those who are actively working on education policy improvements.

GCE-US and our growing Inclusive Education Community of Practice shaped the USAID How-To Note on Disability Inclusive Education, leading to clarification that at least 3-5% of program budgets and 1-3% of operating budgets be allocated for disability-inclusive education and reasonable accommodations.

In April 2019, GCE-US co-hosted a seminar with USAID and implementing partners to explore the intersection between literacy and inclusive education in today’s changing world.

• In partnership with Light for the World and local organizations, GCE-US Disability-Inclusive Education Advocacy Officer Anna Martin researched and engaged disabled people’s organizations (DPOs) in Ethiopia to map and expand capacity for inclusive education and early childhood development advocacy across the country.

• In September 2019, GCE-US, Light for the World, ECDAN and IDDC launched “Leave No Child Behind: Invest in the Early Years,” a report to kick off a targeted campaign advocating for increased inclusive early childhood development and inclusive education funding at the International Forum on Inclusion and Equity in Education.

• In partnership with Oxfam, GCE-US led “Education as the Great Equalizer” in September 2019 at the United Nations General Assembly to launch Oxfam’s new global report, “The Power of Education to Fight Inequality” and build stronger alliances between education advocates and champions working on different aspects of equality (picture below).

• GCE-US led and supported two Civil Society Policy Forum sessions at the World Bank Annual Meetings in Washington, DC in October 2019, hearing from leaders in international education and human rights and hosting the Special Rapporteur on the right to education Dr. Koumbou Boly-Barry.

• At the request of GCE global and the Education and Academia Stakeholder Group, GCE-US Executive Director Jennifer Rigg spoke in October 2019 at the UN General Assembly Side Event Roundtable on the interdependencies and mutual impacts between the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation with other human rights, especially for specific left behind individuals and groups.
Organizational Capacity Building:

- Recruited and onboarded four new members to the GCE-US Board of Directors, building capacity for even stronger, sustained global education advocacy and partnership building.
- GCE-US significantly supported the first-ever GCE Global Youth Caucus and the GCE World Assembly in November 2018 in Nepal, which focused on transforming public education systems for equality, inclusion, and justice. GCE-US Executive Director and outgoing GCE global board member Jennifer Rigg recruited and trained new global board members, facilitated the regional election process, and led World Assembly sessions on SDG4, advocacy for 2019 and beyond, inclusion, and education in emergencies. GCE-US Youth Leader Joey dela Cruz co-chaired the first-ever Youth Caucus, and GCE-US Youth Leader Taylor Rogers helped lead the successful process for the first-ever youth representatives to be elected to the GCE global board.

GCE-US Youth Leaders at the first-ever GCE Youth Caucus and GCE World Assembly in Nepal

Global Campaign for Education-US (GCE-US) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Employer Identification Number 46-5308134. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Thank you for your support and partnership!

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