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Hilhi Students Participate in Prestigious IB World Conference

August 7, 2014 - Rising Hilhi seniors Alicia De Jesus Hernandez and Alexa Pupillo were selected to attend International Baccalaureate (IB) World Student Conferences this summer.

First hosted in Oregon at Oregon State University in the summer of 2010, IB World Student Conferences are now held every summer in three different locations around the globe. This year's locations were Brisbane, Australia, at the University of Queensland (July 6-12); Montréal, Canada, at McGill University (July 20-26); and Bath, United Kingdom, at the University of Bath (July 27-August 2).

The conferences bring together IB students from around the world to collaborate in the development of innovative solutions to global issues. Students hear from inspiring speakers, engage in thoughtful inquiry focused on the conference theme in small sessions, and participate in excursions and recreational activities.

"This is an amazing opportunity for students," shared Sil Scott, IB Coordinator at Hilhi. "IB is unique in that it provides students with an international experience and way of thinking that extends beyond immediate community."

Alicia attended the conference in Australia, where the students took part in plenary sessions, heard from high-profile thought leaders, worked in teams to build their understanding of the many benefits and challenges related to empowering diversity, and explored how they can make a positive impact in their own communities.

Alexa attended the conference in Canada, which encouraged deep reflection on some of today's most pressing human rights issues and provided the participants an opportunity to discuss and develop new approaches for addressing human rights violations. Themes included the rights of indigenous peoples and children, and how technologies can be used to advance human rights actions.

"We are extremely proud of these two students as they have shown the ability to take a risk and explore new opportunities for learning," noted Hilhi Principal Arturo Lomeli. "For these students to apply and be accepted along with students from around the world is a testament to their courage and commitment to new experiences, the benefits of which will last far beyond the conference week."

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Hilhi is the only high school in the Hillsboro School District offering the International Baccalaureate Diploma program. The program was created in 1968 as a demanding pre-university course of study that prepares students for culminating examinations. Designed for juniors and seniors, the program has earned a reputation for rigorous assessment, giving IB diploma holders access to the world's leading universities and preparing Hilhi students for success at the college level and beyond. Hilhi has offered the IB Diploma program since 2001 and encourages all students to take one or more qualifying classes.

Engage and challenge all learners to ensure academic excellence

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