



## Press Release

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## International Crisis Management Exercise Gives Local High School Students Hands-On Experience in American Government

The World Affairs Council of Jacksonville, in partnership with the University of North Florida, will host the 2009 International Crisis Management Exercise (ICME) for local high school students from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 28, at UNF in the Science and Engineering Building (building 50, rooms 1102 and 1202, located on the first floor). Members of the media and the general public are welcome to attend at any point during the Exercise. There will be opportunities to observe the students in action, as well as interview participants and take pictures. Please call Vanessa Harper, Education Outreach Coordinator for the World Affairs Council at (352) 284-0500 for questions and/or directions.

This scenario, role-playing Exercise, involves six local high schools participating in the *Great Decisions* enrichment program and is a culmination of the year-long project. More than 30 students from Episcopal, Fletcher, Mandarin, Nease, Ribault and Stanton high schools will serve as American government officials advising the President.

Students will gather to role play members of the President's National Security Council and address an international crisis involving Russia. The purpose of the experience is to demonstrate the complexity of decision-making by the President and his advisors when international policy and incidents collide as well as illustrate the difficulty of crisis management in the face of changing circumstances, competing interests, ambiguous national intelligence and mounting uncertainty.

This International crisis management exercise was designed by Ambassador Nancy Soderberg, UNF distinguished visiting scholar in political science and public administration, Dr. Mary Borg, director of undergraduate enrichment at UNF and Dr. David Schwam-Baird, assistant professor of political science at UNF. Ambassador Soderberg brings a valuable perspective to the Exercise having served four years as the third-ranking official of the National Security Council at the White House during the Clinton Administration.

*Great Decisions*, developed by the Foreign Policy Association, is the largest grassroots, world affairs educational program of its kind. The program consists of eight topics, outlined as in-depth, non-partisan articles prepared by experts. The articles are supplemented by video segments and are facilitated by faculty members from Florida Community College of Jacksonville, Jacksonville University, and the University of North Florida.

*As one of the most prestigious citizen forums in Northeast Florida, the World Affairs Council of Jacksonville is a non-profit, non-partisan, educational organization devoted to engaging the community in discussions about global issues of today and tomorrow. Our mission is to promote an understanding of the world and its people and to engage citizens of Northeast Florida in becoming informed participants in the global community.*

*At the University of North Florida, students are our first priority. UNF recognizes that every student is an individual, with different goals, learning styles and needs. UNF has more than 16,000 students and offers five colleges of distinction: the Coggin College of Business, Brooks College of Health, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Computing, Engineering and Construction, and the College of Education and Human Services.*

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