"More than any other time in history, the future of humankind is being shaped by issues that are beyond any one nation’s ability to solve."
— Dr. Vinay Bhargava, The World Bank

The 2015 Global Economic Forum addressed four global risks: (1) Persistent Jobless Growth and Unemployment; (2) Increasing Water Stress; (3) Global Governance Failure and Corruption; and (4) Infectious Disease Outbreaks. Working in teams, students were assigned advocacy positions on behalf of one of these issues in a simulated World Bank investment competition, centered on a fictitious $10 billion Global Risk Fund.

An independent panel of judges, comprising Philadelphia’s business, civic and government leaders, “awarded” funding to the Global Risk Group that presented the most compelling argument as to why their assigned issue, if properly redressed, would have the greatest impact on long-term economic security.

Participating schools registered up to two teams of four-to-six students each. Furthermore, each team was required to nominate one candidate to serve in a leadership position. Each team was assigned an advocacy position on behalf of one Global Risk Group (e.g., Increasing Water Stress) from the perspective of an assigned Economic Bloc (Advanced, Developing, or Least-Developed).

Each team prepared a presentation to be delivered at the outset of the Forum’s morning breakout sessions, which addressed the following questions: (1) What impact, if any, does this issue have on your assigned countries and/or economic bloc? (2) What are two strategies and/or policy recommendations that could effectively address this issue? (3) Why will this issue, if successfully redressed, have the greatest impact on global economic security?

For additional information or questions about this past program, please view program resources and/or contact the Council’s Education department.