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Program



2019 International Student Summit on Information and Democracy

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Wednesday, December 11,
2019

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Fox School of Business
at Temple University
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

PROGRAM RESOURCES:



(Click hyperlinks to view)

[Program Book](#)

[Briefing Paper - Information
and Democracy](#)

[Joint Pledge on Information
and Democracy](#)

"The global communication and information space is a common good of humankind and should be protected as such. Access to knowledge rooted in truth and reality, is a fundamental [human] right."

- Preamble, International Declaration on Information and Democracy, Reporters without Borders

The shifting nature of modern communication, technology, and media consumption has exposed significant flaws in the global community's efforts to gather quality information. Journalists, social media entities and advocates for free speech and free press are increasingly threatened by pervasive misinformation and antagonistic state actors. This fundamental problem has even threatened both nascent and established democracies who are struggling with the consequences of damaging misinformation.

The **2019 International Student Summit on Information and Democracy (ISS)** simulated a meeting of international advocates for free speech, journalism, and a free and independent press. The meeting took place under the collective pretense that rising instances of pervasive disinformation, the suppression free press, and a growing influence of anti-democratic regimes, poses a major threat to the integrity and security of journalists, global freedom, civil harmony, and world peace.

Nearly 250 high school student participants represented free press advocates from countries that ranked on either end of the World Press Freedom Index. In these roles, students were assigned a working group where they debated and discussed specific issues confronting the global community. Using their assigned country as a case study, students highlighted specific opportunities and challenges surrounding the global communication and information space and created a series of proposals that presented creative solutions to this pressing global crisis. With their student assignment in mind, and using the principles set out in the International Declaration on Information and Democracy as a benchmark, students ultimately crafted an International Pledge to the international community that responded to contemporary challenges, renewed commitment towards the right to exercise freedom of opinion and expression, and defined a set of objectives to be pursued while taking account of the rights and interests of future generations.