



Global Campaign for Education – US Annual Highlights 2020

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. With the global pandemic highlighting the importance of our work, GCE-US made significant progress, including the following accomplishments.

Give today: <https://bitly/gce-us-give>

Youth Engagement:

- **Convened, led and supported over 100 youth advocates in promoting global education in their communities.** GCE-US led mobilization in the US and around the world for Global Action Week for Education with the 2020 global theme *My Education, My Right(s)* and focused on the right to inclusive, equitable, quality, free public education. By encompassing the full realization of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 agenda, this annual week of action calls attention to the urgent need to invest in the future of over 260 million out-of-school children around the world.
- In February 2020, GCE-US staff and partners met with the [RESULTS Real Change Fellows](#) during their four-day policy summit. GCE-US and RESULTS Fellows discussed the connections between global health, nutrition, and global education.
- In July 2020, GCE-US Executive Director Jennifer Rigg spoke at the **All-Africa Students Union Conference on COVID-19 Recovery and Education.**
- **GCE-US facilitated global education trainings with over 50 students in the [AMP Global Scholar](#) program to learn about global education and 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.
- **Collaborated with and supported youth leaders on college campuses across the United States, including Duke University.** Youth leaders were given the opportunity to advocate for and promote equal access to quality education in their own lives, community, and schools.

- **Advanced and promoted youth voices in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.** By raising youth voices on social media, youth advocates participated in the [#SafeHands Challenge](#) and utilized social media tools to mobilize youth advocates.
- In March, GCE-US Youth Fellows, [RESULTS](#), and [World Vision US](#) participated in the **Child Thrive Advocacy Day**, meeting with House and Senate offices to discuss the **Global Child Thrive Act and the importance of early childhood development** (pictured below).



Coalition Engagement:

- **Led coalition and partner meetings to ensure quality, inclusive and equitable education**, including disability-inclusive 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.
- **Invited coalition members and partners to share global education programming lessons, promising practices, and impact stories.** Highlights included:
 - [“We Are in This Together” Podcast Series with new GCE-US member Amal Alliance](#) – This series is intended for vulnerable communities, including **refugees and migrants**. It addresses the needs of children during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing simple, but meaningful, activities that reinforce social-emotional wellbeing.
 - [National Virtual Event: 40 Years of Walking with Refugees with GCE-US member JRS USA](#) – Recognized the work of JRS over the last four decades, expressed the commitment to continue to provide services to refugees, and honored those who have helped JRS along the way. **The event included a statement from President-Elect Joe Biden in support of refugee education and announced a commitment to increase the U.S. refugee resettlement admissions quota.**

- [2020 Girls Leadership Summit](#) – GCE-US coalition member Girl Up hosted the 2020 Girls Leadership Summit with expert-led workshops, girl-led workshops, and a Day of Action highlighting women in leadership and gender equality issues.
- **Launched the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report 2020 on Inclusion and Education: All Means All** with **Priya Joshi, UNESCO**; **Sue Swenson, President of Inclusion International**; and **Judith Heumann, International Disability Rights Advocate** (pictured below).



Policy Advocacy:

- **Led engagement across U.S. government and civil society to successfully advocate** for early childhood development, disability inclusion, education in emergencies, girls' and women's education, and funding to ensure quality, inclusive, equitable education for all.
- **Grassroots advocacy: Increased campaigning for constituency advocacy and mobilization in coordination with policy, youth advocacy, and social media outreach efforts, contributing to U.S. government support for global education priorities**, including USAID education programs, the Global Partnership for Education, Education Cannot Wait, and US international basic education appropriations.
- **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** and led consultations between civil society advocates and the U.S. government. GCE-US also supported global education funders, specifically USAID, the World Bank, Global Partnership for Education, Education Cannot Wait, and UNICEF, to improve policies and processes to **move inclusive education from the fringes of global education funding to its core**.
- Provided feedback on key legislation related to **protecting education in conflict, inclusive education, assessing the impacts of COVID-19 on education**, and the **Global Learning Loss Assessment Act**.

- GCE-US and partners hosted **Honoring a Champion: Representative Nita Lowey & Her Fight for Global Education**, a tribute to Congresswoman Lowey’s legacy as a champion for global education. Speakers included members of Congress, youth advocates, global leaders, and remarks from Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai (pictured below).



- **Successfully advocated for a \$75 million increase in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 U.S. budget to \$875 billion for international basic education**, including \$100 million for the Global Partnership for Education and the **first ever annual appropriation of \$25 million for Education Cannot Wait**. Led a letter to congressional appropriators on FY2021 global education appropriations request signed by 32 partner organizations. Coordinated appropriations funding and language requests across GCE-US members, resulting in submitting requests to more than 135 congressional offices.
- Developed and sent a coordinated letter to congressional appropriators advocating for at least \$300 million in global education funding to address the education challenges of COVID-19, rallying policymaker support in partnership with 24 other organizations to **ensure education is prioritized in COVID-19 response efforts**.
- In collaboration with [Global Citizen](#) and [Light for The World](#), GCE-US called on world leaders to support disability inclusive early childhood development and education through a **Call to Action petition to ensure that children with disabilities get a good start in life**. The Call to Action mobilized over 31,000 signatures.
- GCE-US partners ChildFund and Save the Children presented on the Girls’ Leadership, Engagement, Agency and Development (LEAD) Act at the GCE-US June Coalition Meeting. The Girls LEAD Act is a bill that recognizes and promotes girls’ civic and political leadership as a priority of U.S. foreign assistance efforts – particularly those focused on building strong and inclusive democracies across the globe. **Together, GCE-US, ChildFund, Save the Children, and other coalition members took action to call on Congress to support the Girls LEAD Act.**
- In February 2020, GCE-US Executive Director Jennifer Rigg joined Global Campaign for Education (GCE) coalition partners for a regional and global advocacy conference hosted in the Education Coalition in Tbilisi, Georgia. **Joining the work of other GCE coalitions, the European and North American Coalitions for Education group (ENACE) was born to build stronger transformational advocacy and capacity across the region** on behalf of the right to education for all. The conference featured preparations for Global Partnership for Education

replenishment advocacy, bringing together civil society groups and advocates (pictured below).



- The GCE-US Inclusive Education and Early Childhood Development Community of Practice **organized the #AllMeansAllGPE Call to Action which gained over 100 signatories**. The Call to Action advocated to make Inclusive Education and Early Childhood Education a priority in the new Global Partnership for Education (GPE) strategy. Advocates shared the letter with 23 GPE board members before the September board meeting and planned to continue advocacy through the future GPE board meetings.
- The Community of Practice **advocated to shape the World Bank’s Inclusive Education Resource Guide Part 1: People with Disabilities**, and successfully strengthened the guidance across the World Bank on inclusive education and early childhood development.
- **Together, the GCE-US coalition urged incoming policymakers to prioritize global education as a critical element in U.S. foreign policy**, leading a Call to Action with more than 90 signatories highlighting the importance of global education investments in children and young people around the world while scaling up effective interventions to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and build back better.
- Along with the Global Partnership for Education, GCE-US met with the incoming U.S. International Development Agency Review Team to discuss the importance of international basic education and promote policies that would **improve quality, inclusive education for all**, including pre-primary education, inclusive education, and the importance of creating and sustaining robust public education systems.
- GCE-US and partners met with the incoming Department of Education Agency Review Team to reinforce the **importance of global education** in department priorities.
- GCE-US led U.S. education advocacy to prepare for the G7 Summit, urging support for inclusive education, education in emergencies, girls’ education, and early childhood development with the **G7 Finance, Education, and Foreign Ministers**.
- In November 2020 and in partnership with Light for the World, OSF, ECDAN, IDA, and IDDC, **launched the [Leave No Child Behind: Invest in The Early Years](#) Global Report** to build the targeted campaign advocating for increased inclusive early childhood development and

inclusive education funding. The launch had over 400 attendees and featured remarks from global and youth leaders expressing the urgency of governments and donors investing in inclusive early childhood education in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic (pictured below).



- The Inclusive Education and Early Childhood Development Community of Practice met with **USAID leaders to discuss the importance of investing in inclusive early childhood education** in their global programming. The advocacy group presented inclusive practices, sustainable partnering, and case studies that illustrated the effectiveness of implementing quality inclusive early childhood education.
- In 2020, the **Inclusive Education and Early Childhood Development Community of Practice** grew to include 187 individuals and over 80 organizations, coordinating efforts on cohesive advocacy strategies across organizations and regions, sharing knowledge to improve inclusive education right from the start, and developing best practices.

Thank you for your collaboration and contributions! We have even bigger goals for the year ahead to ensure the human right to quality, inclusive education for all, and will be able to accomplish them thanks to your sustained partnership and support.

Please give today: <https://bit.ly/gce-us-give>

Global Campaign for Education-US is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Employer Identification Number 46-5308134. Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

gce-us.org | Twitter: [@GCE_US](https://twitter.com/GCE_US) | Instagram: [@GCE_US](https://www.instagram.com/GCE_US) |
[facebook.com/campaignforeducationusa](https://www.facebook.com/campaignforeducationusa)

1201 16th Street, NW, Suite 521
Washington, DC 20036