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## **Converse College to Virtually Co-Host 36th Annual International Model NATO**

**SPARTANBURG, S.C.** (February 2, 2021) – Converse College is honored to virtually co-host the 36th Annual International Model NATO on February 12-14, 2021. The Model is headquartered at Howard University in Washington, D.C. The 2021 International Model NATO will give college students from 29 institutions the opportunity to discuss global political and economic issues while honing their skills in public speaking and diplomacy through a conference replicating NATO’s model of assembly and discourse.

Each year, colleges and universities from around the United States, Canada, and Europe come together to compete in a simulated assembly of the [North Atlantic Treaty Organization \(NATO\)](#). Because the 2021 Model is virtual, a number of Central and Eastern European countries, who cannot travel to Washington, will be able to participate. The 2021 Keynote Address will be delivered by the NATO Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy, Ambassador Baiba Braže.

“The International Model NATO competition gives students the chance to put their diplomatic abilities to the test and practice what they have learned in the classroom,” remarked Dr. Joe P. Dunn, Model NATO Advisor and Converse Professor of History and Politics, Chair of History and Politics. “This model of learning brings concepts of international affairs and politics to life through real discussions of global issues. I am looking forward to Converse hosting the competition virtually this year and I am proud of the work my students have put into designing this year’s model of competition.”

The virtual 2021 model was designed by International Model NATO Secretary General and Converse Student Government Association President, Kennedy Anderson. The 2021 International Model NATO Secretariat will include 6 other Converse students in leadership positions:

- Kennedy Anderson as Secretary General,
- Delaney Leslie as Assistant Secretary General and Chair of the North Atlantic Council,
- Breeana Cowan as Chair of the Political Committee,
- Madison Orcurto as Chair of the Military Committee,
- Emilee Panhorst as Chair of the Partnerships and Cooperative Security Committee,
- Erin Kitchenka as Chair of the Committee on Emerging Security Challenges, and
- Hayley Gordon as Chief of Staff.

- more -

Converse has been the permanent Secretariat administering the Model and providing the Secretary General and the other leaders since 2006. This year Converse will represent the Netherlands and the Republic of North Macedonia, the newest member of NATO. Converse has been selected as the Outstanding Delegation for 13 of the 15 years in which it has participated.

For more information on Converse's Model Programs, visit <https://www.converse.edu/academics/history-and-politics/model-programs/>.

### ***About International Model NATO***

International Model Nato Conference is designed to give students the opportunity to enhance their skills and understanding of diplomacy and public speaking, study the role, structure, and activities of NATO in the defence of shared interests, highlight major military-security, political and economic issues facing NATO countries and recent changes affecting NATO's security policies, demonstrate the patterns of cooperation that characterize intra-NATO diplomacy in the pursuit of collective security and etc. To learn more, [click here](#).

### ***About Converse College***

Converse empowers students to become transformative leaders who see clearly, decide wisely, and act justly. Converse was founded in 1889 by citizens of Spartanburg, SC who aimed to create an educational experience for women, and in fall 2020 it welcomed its first undergraduate co-educational incoming class. Converse students experience deep scholarship, transformative mentorship, experiential learning, and a wonderful support for and belief in each other. Through this unique formula, Converse is a creator of opportunity for its students through a personalized education that also includes the professional and technical skills graduates need to be successful in their careers. Effective July 1, 2021 Converse will acknowledge its university status under the name Converse University.

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