

From Culver to Cambridge to Africa: Renowned economist joins Culver students in the classroom through distance learning



Students at The Culver Academies in Culver, Indiana, are exposed to many diverse educational experiences. Recently, students participated in a fascinating session through an interactive distance learning connection with a leading economist. The topic was The Future of Sub-Saharan Africa: Civil War and the AIDS Crisis.

Through the Vision Athena network, students enrolled in Culver's Global Studies Institute connected with economist Jeffrey Sachs, former director of the Center for International Development at Harvard University and current chairman of the World

Health Organization's Commission on Macroeconomics and Health. Sachs facilitated an interactive discussion about the overwhelming disease burden of AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis – and subsequent economic crises – faced by Sub-Saharan nations.

The video conference provided an important insider's view to the political, health, and economic struggles of some of the world's poorest countries. Although Culver students are domestically as well as internationally diverse, the session with Dr. Sachs extended students' consciousness, heightening their awareness and giving them a greater appreciation for the world around them.

Impact on learning

- Creates a "borderless" and rich educational experience that complements and extends classroom-based instruction.
- Offers a flexible and interactive delivery system that expands the teaching and learning process.

Event Stats:

Participating schools:

The Culver Academies, Culver, Ind.
Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Number of participating students 45

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"Participants were very enthusiastic. Many said this session was the highlight of the seminar, which also featured guest scholars who lectured in person."

– Harry Frick, The Culver Academies

