

North Andover, Massachusetts 01845, 978-837-5000

March 4, 2016 World Interfaith Harmony Week Panel of Judges

Honorable and Excellent Members of the Panel of Judges:

It is my honor to recommend for your consideration the series of events that occurred during World Interfaith Harmony Week at the Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, USA.

Many and various events on and off campus were celebrated to call students' attention to the importance of building interfaith relationships through mutual understanding and respect. They included displays in the main dining building lobby each day of the week on such subjects as: the Golden Rule; religious issues of women and gender; care of the environment; work against poverty and hunger; and, food and traditions.

Across campus there were outside art installation projection of symbols across faith, religion, belief systems. The important documentary "Of Many" produced by Chelsea Clinton was screened on campus. Acclaimed Chinese-Cuban-American artist/curator Katarina Wong addressed the topic of "Buddhism, Monkey Mind, Chaos, and Connections." Students participated in raising funds for area Merrimack Valley food pantries in collaboration with Merrimack College's Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations. Students participated in an interfaith panel "Ask Your Neighbor." Author/scholar Stephen Prothero gave a public lecture on "How to Talk (and Think) about the 'R' Word in Public." A Native American spoke on the topic Native American Spirituality 2/11. Finally, there was a public performance of "Unveiled" by playwright/actress Rohina Malik.

This generous list of programs occurred at one of the most prestigious Prep Schools in the United States, with potential impact on future leaders from around the world. The tremendous effort of the Campus Ministers of Phillips Academy, especially Dr. Mary Kantor, will bear fruit in coming generations for the benefit of all. I urge you to consider their significant effort in your contest.

With warm regards and sincere admiration for your noble work,

Joseph T. Kelley, Ph.D., D.Mi Professor of Religious and Theological Studies Director of the Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations Merrimack College University