Eight SMU Students Are Headed to 2016 the
Clinton Global Initiative University Annual Meeting

Eight SMU students accepted the invitation to attend the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U) Annual Meeting, to be held at the University of California Berkeley, April 1-3, 2016.

President Bill Clinton and Chelsea Clinton will host the meeting, bringing together more than 1,000 college students from around the world. The invited students have each developed projects with innovative solutions to pressing global challenges in Education, Environment and Climate Change, Peace and Human Rights, Poverty Alleviation, and Public Health.

A brief description of SMU students and their projects follows:

- Cristina Barrera: **Food Guardian** will consult with local Dallas businesses and institutions to eliminate commercial food waste through source reduction, donations of excess food, and composting food waste.
- Jake Brudish: **Hoops H2O** will host competitive basketball tournaments to raise money to aid in the creation of improved water wells in the Republic of South Sudan.
- Priya Chowdhary: **The Nari Project** distributes crisis kits to domestic abuse victims as they transition from critical situations to places of safety, and this year Nari is expanding operations to India.
- Sasha Mohammed: **Life Spark**, a smaller apparatus that works in combination with a mobile application will serve as a more accessible form of the automatic external defibrillator.
- Hena Rafiq: **Generation NOW: Breaking the Cycle of Incarceration** is a program developed to help the children of incarcerated or formerly incarcerated mothers.
- Angelica Reisch: **Catalyst Arts Movement** is a Dallas-based project to support and fund artists who create community engagement through art.
- Thomas Schmedding: **Innovating Health Safety Net Solutions in Means-Tested Areas** is conducting research on innovative solutions for affordable health coverage for mothers and infants in Uganda and Dallas.
Devon Skerritt: **The Possibility Project** teaches young people (K-12) skills of social entrepreneurship through training, networking, and experiences that prepare aspiring first generation Dallas students for next generation careers.

Priya Chowdhary was also selected to be a part of the Clinton Global Initiative LEAD Program. The LEAD program provides the added opportunity to engage with the Clinton Global Initiative and it includes invitations to the CGI, CGI U, and LEAD annual meetings. Priya will also be mentored by Khaliya Aga Khan, a distinguished philanthropist, venture capitalist, and advocate for social change.

The CGI U website describes the annual meeting: “Student attendees will have the opportunity to attend Plenary Sessions, Working Sessions, and other special events which will enable them to network with their peers, build skills, and identify potential partners. The program will feature dozens of topic experts, university representatives, and celebrities who will join students at CGI U to discuss effective solutions to some of world’s most pressing challenges. During the last day of the meeting, attendees will take part in a Day of Action in the local community”.

SMU is a member of the CGI U Network of 70 U.S. colleges and universities that provide support and mentorship for students’ projects. The Office of Engaged Learning is SMU’s sponsoring department.

For more info about CGI U contact CGI U Campus Representative Cristina Barrera at engagedlearning@smu.edu.