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**CONTACT MRS. NANCY BLADE, PRINCIPAL, LAGUNA BEACH HIGH  
(949) 497-7750**

## **MODEL UNITED NATIONS**

The complexities of the world politics that dominate our news can be overwhelming to our high school students who are about to embark upon their lives beyond Laguna's borders.

Thanks to the talent and expertise of Jonathan Todd, who teaches the Laguna Beach High School's Model UN class, forty-two students who have enrolled in the class, have an opportunity to understand these complex international points in an ongoing class study.

In addition to their in-class discussions, Model UN students compete in regional and national conferences where they debate their chosen "countries" policies, points of view, and major topics.

Local conferences were held at Santa Margarita Catholic High School, Tustin High School with upcoming sessions at Laguna Hills, El Toro High Schools and UCI. Our high school students also attended the regional competition held in Salt Lake City, Utah. In March, our students will travel to New York City to participate in the national conference.

Principal Nancy Blade elaborates on this outstanding student opportunity, "The Model United Nations program is exciting for students as it brings the world into the classroom and takes our students out to the world. Students learn from and with other students throughout the United States and in the process develop a deeper understanding of world issues. Students also have the opportunity to work with Jonathan Todd, advisor to MUN and a great role model, who helps them develop the ability to look at all sides of issues with an open and inquiring mind."