

# Global Minds United: Trailblazing with Cutting-Edge Education

BY AUTUMN GIUSTI | PHOTOS BY CAMILLE HUGHES



**GMU team facilitates training tailored to students.**



**Hough High Global Minds United initiative. Students, teachers, administrators and GMU working collaboratively.**



**GMU Training Experts: (L to R) Kristen Enwright, Dawne Kakitsis, Ridgely Chapman and Tara Jaketic**



**Ridgely Chapman, CEO/Founder, Global Minds United**

Now more than ever, educators and businesses are recognizing an urgent need to develop global diversity and inclusion practices in their schools and organizations. But they don't always know where or how to start.

A nonprofit out of Davidson believes they have the expertise to help. Global Minds United's mission is to provide a multifaceted educational platform to schools and businesses, promoting diversity and inclusion, to develop competent, compassionate and active global citizens.

Global Minds United is the brainchild of Ridgely Chapman, a career mediator and psychoanalytic developmental psychologist with a background in human judgment and decision making. Chapman has lived and worked around the world, helping with global conflict resolution initiatives. As executive director of Solace for the Children, she implemented peace-building initiatives while helping children from war-torn countries receive medical care. Chapman has given guest lectures on conflict resolution at Davidson College and on Innovations in Peace Building at the Praxis Conference in Washington, D.C.

Despite witnessing the polarization, erosion of empathy and inability for individuals to dialogue differences over the years, Chapman knew from her own work that it was possible—even for people

"I think a lot of times people look at 'the other' in terms of fear," Chapman says. "At Global Minds United, we want people to start looking at that which is different from themselves with curiosity."

Chapman, after having developed six training modules which rely on a developmental psychology approach, brought on board Dawne Kakitsis, Tara Jaketic and Kristen Enwright, all training specialists with strong backgrounds in advocating for equity. Their combined expertise allows the team to deliver top-notch engaging training for teachers, administrators, students, parents and community members in:

- Implicit bias and diversity
- Building our identity
- Human rights and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- Dialoguing differences
- Conflict resolution and peace-building
- Change management

Because of Chapman's unique approach, Harvard University's Graduate School of Education invited her to be part of its Think Tank on Global Education, which brings together educators, policy makers and U.N. delegates from around the world to discuss and develop cutting edge global education.

William A. Hough High School in Cornelius is now one of the "trailblazing" and "one-to-watch" schools that will benefit from this cutting-edge Global Diversity and Inclusion education. The Hough High Global Minds United Initiative launched last month with the support of Principal Dr. Laura Rosenbach, CMS Diversity and Inclusion Director Chiquitha Lloyd and The Peninsula Community Foundation.

Part of what makes Global Minds United unique is that it doesn't take a check-the-box approach in which experts give a talk to a group and then leave. Instead, the organization focuses on interactive training and consulting over a two-year period. This includes implicit bias testing through Harvard University, GD&I consulting, written and video resources, organizational metrics and measurements, and touchpoint sessions for all stakeholders to see how training tools/skills are being utilized in real-life scenarios.

"It really is a process for individuals to go through," Chapman says. "When they participate in our training, they will be somewhere different as a human being than when they started. We cannot make societal shifts in institutions until the people who make up these institutions make the shifts within themselves."

If you think your school would benefit from a collaboration with Global Minds United, please email [info@globalmindsunited.org](mailto:info@globalmindsunited.org). GMU never turns a school or organization away and relies on grants and individual donors. Visit our website at [www.globalmindsunited.org](http://www.globalmindsunited.org) for more information.



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