

***Beyond War: Causes of Conflict, Prospects for Peace Conference***  
**June 2, Dinner Program Speakers**

**Fareed Mostoufi: Introduction to Indigo Passariello**

Good evening everyone, my name is Fareed Mostoufi and I am the senior education manager at Pulitzer Center. Today has been a powerful reminder of how special and essential it is to create spaces for people to discuss the pressing issues facing our world. My colleagues on the K-12 education team and I have the privilege of supporting those conversations in over 100 elementary, middle and high schools nationwide.

I'd like everyone in the room to take a moment for everyone to think: What was it that first got you interested in the world? When did you start to care about issues affecting people you may never meet, in places you might not have seen before? When did you realize that you could use your voice to bring awareness to underreported issues? How did you realize it?

Since our founding twelve years ago, we have partnered with educators across the country to help students to make these discoveries. In 2017, over 80,000 students connected to our reporting as part of nearly 400 events that included journalist visits, reporting, photography and video production workshops for students and professional development for educators. Teachers connected to us online to schedule Skype sessions with journalists or to access one of the over 300 standards-aligned lesson plans available for free on our website.

If you are interested in learning more, please visit the resource table outside or find a Pulitzer Center staff member after dinner. You could also talk to the many educators and grantees in the room who have supported our education efforts! Can you all raise your hands?

Our education program is rooted in not only connecting students with global stories, but also in empowering students to make their own connections, share their perspectives and tell their stories. For those of us who were part of the Youth in Peace-building panel this afternoon, we saw firsthand the vital role that young people are playing in witnessing, reporting, debating and speaking out about the pressing, deeply complicated issues we all face. It is the first of two panels highlighting youth at this conference.

If you can, I encourage you to attend the Youth Activists and the Media Workshop tomorrow morning as well. Can all the young people participating in panels this weekend please raise your hands? You'll want to listen to them.

I also encourage you to listen closely as I turn the floor over to our next guest, Indigo Passariello. Indigo is a musician, songwriter, and rising sophomore in the Honors program at Howard University. She writes in her bio that, "her original compositions often reflect her responses to human relations and the world as she sees it." I think I'm not alone in saying, I'm excited to hear what she has to say. Please welcome Indigo Passariello, accompanied by Ekep Nkwelle, Issayah Whitesides, Jillian Willis and Jasmine Thomas for a performance of Indigo's song "Hands Up, Don't Shoot."