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Do you think such a network would be beneficial to you and to your fellow student leaders?

**I think that a network connecting all PGC competitors/participants would be incredibly beneficial. Many participants in the challenge are actively working towards making their schools, communities, and own lives better through grassroots change. However, it can often seem daunting to make many changes when it feels like nobody around you is caring as much as you are. Having a network of individuals who care about these issues would not only emphasize a friendly, fostering relationship between those involved with PGC, but it would also act as a constant reminder that we are not the only individuals fighting for a more sustainable and just world. Additionally, PGC participants show that there are different perspectives to different problems and there are different solutions to these problems. Having a network of participants could behoove all participants; if you are attempting to solve an issue on your campus or within your community, you can see how other PGC competitors approached a similar problem. There's no sense in reinventing the wheel each time one is confronted with a problem. There are several email listservs that I am on that are beneficial in both of these regards (e.g., Udall Listserv).**

Would you have an interest in joining or taking a leadership role in such a network bringing together student leaders from all over the world working for positive change?

**I would be incredibly interested in joining and taking a leadership role in a network that would bring together student leaders from across the globe. Living in Alabama, I know the difficulties that are associated with caring about the environment, renewable energy resources, and those who are not privileged enough to be able to effectively voice their opinion. As a result, I know the importance that comes with using my privilege to help others and fight against their disparities. Additionally, I know what it takes to change a culture in a region that doesn't care about climate change; I have learned how to make people care about their futures and their childrens' futures. I have a history of running organizations and developing radical ideas that bring change; with that history comes with a history of successfully implementing these ideas. In order to truly reform our way of life and divert ourselves from this catastrophic path, we need to implement fresh ideas in many areas. We must be united and maintain strong communicative networks. I would be honored to help in laying the foundation of such a system.**

If yes, what do you imagine that might look like and how might you be willing/able to contribute? Be as specific as you can.

I think that one of the best ways to stay connected is through an email listserv and through social media networking. Emails are an effective way to disseminate information from those responsible for managing the networking site. However, social media networking would be the most effective way for previous PGC participants (who did not want a leadership role) to ask questions regarding certain initiatives, discuss success with certain projects, or to even float ideas by other student leaders across the world. Additionally, I feel as though a network of PGC participants from many universities across the globe could also help us develop a quasi-standardized list of goals. Each university, high school, and community is unique and combats their own problems. However, combatting unique problems does not excuse oneself from addressing other problems that *everyone* faces. I believe that PGC should use a combination of the UN Sustainability Goals while also developing their own. I think that an excellent way to strive motivation would be to have a secondary competition; PGC would continue to offer its current PGC platform to help educate students about the importance of sustainability and recruit interested students who want to do more than just participate in the competition, but I believe that an institution-wide competition which assesses how many of the previously agreed upon goals is reached would be a helpful incentive. Also, I think that standardized methodology would also help put additional validity behind this potential network, causing more to join. At the risk of sacrificing inclusivity (not the goal), I think that certain institutions should be expected to be a small fee to help PGC communicate with young leaders; donors are an integral component to the PGC, but asking certain, capable institutions to give a little money would also be very helpful. I would also hope to see the PGC network decide on efforts regarding voting and GOTV events. Certain topics (like voting) should be headed by a committee within this network; these committees would be responsible for developing strategies and goals which could be implemented at every university, high school, and within communities. To effectively enact change, the network should have responsible individuals in charge of developing ideas based on conversations they had with other individuals from PGC and should be responsible for disseminating and sharing this information. This includes addressing the efficacy of certain projects and the feasibility of implementation. This is what I hope to see from a PGC network.

Let us know if you are all in and ready to roll up your sleeves and help write the slate for our journey forward.

I am 100% ready and committed to fighting for sustainable initiatives across this globe. I will be happy to present myself at the call for action and roll my sleeves up to help with this endeavor. The only way that we can truly combat the problems which we face is by effectively working together. For us to be the change which we wish to see, we need to be willing to work very hard. Throughout my life, sustainability has been incredibly important to me. A quote from *The Lorax* by Dr Seuss is a constant reminder to me of the importance of working and fighting for what you believe in and motivates me to this day:

**“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, Nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”**