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United World College Dilijan: A Lens Into The Future Of Education

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When I was 17 years old, I only had one friend who was not white.

I did not know anyone born outside of the United States. 99% of my high school was white. The first time I met a Latina was in college. She told me she was from Panama City. I thought she meant Florida. I had no clue why she had an accent. Yikes.

The United World College (UWC) makes sure other 17-year-old students will never write what you read above. I recently visited UWC Dilijan, in Dilijan, Armenia, and was beyond impressed with what I saw. I interviewed the founders, students, teachers, and administrators. I turned dozens of pages of notes into the 10 most exciting reasons UWC Dilijan represents the future of education, and here they are.



A global alumni network: Let's look at the entire UWC system from a macro perspective. The UWC movement was founded in 1962. Its mission was to make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. UWC colleges conduct educational activities on a not-for-profit basis. Instruction is provided to students aged 16-19 in English under the IB Diploma Program (International Baccalaureate), recognized by the world's best universities.

As of today, the UWC network includes 15 schools and colleges in Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Germany, Great Britain, Hong Kong, India, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Swaziland and the U.S. The colleges in Germany and Armenia became full members of UWC in 2013 and welcomed their first students in 2014. In 2015, UWC Changshu China welcomed its first students. This year two new colleges are joining UWC movement. 15 schools around the world means 55,000 current alumni eager to help each other move into the borderless future. What a gift.