The root causes of conflict and the methods to prevent and intervene in conflict situations are interdisciplinary. So too is the need to address them collaboratively in both global and local communities. From child soldiers in Africa and the Americas to gangs in North America, collaboration is necessary to resolve these challenges with cultural and contextual sensitivity. Global Issues Resource Center and Library, Office of Community Continuing Education, at Cuyahoga Community College and the European Centre on Conflict Prevention (international secretariat for the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict) are partnering with colleges and universities, local, national, and international non-governmental and governmental organizations to host a four-day International Summit on Conflict Resolution Education in Cleveland, Ohio, USA. Participants will include members of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict’s (GPPAC) Peace Education and Conflict Resolution Education Group representing the 15 world regions as designated by GPPAC. This Summit builds upon the Inter-American Summit on Conflict Resolution Education organized in March 2007 which brought together government representatives from among the 50 states and 34 countries of the Americas and their non-governmental organization partners who have legislation or policies in place to deliver conflict resolution education at the K-12 level and in colleges of teacher education. The main sponsors were The Organization of American States and the United Nations Development Program. There were 400 attendees from 24 states and 13 countries. The conference proceedings can be found at: www.CREducation.org

The second Summit is an opportunity for colleges and universities, non-governmental organizations, and governmental organizations to engage in interdisciplinary collaboration and research on issues of violence and conflict confronting our youth. Presentations will focus on conflict management and peace education strategies for youth and methods that reduce the societal violence that surrounds youth. Participants will exchange program best practices, evaluation methodology, creation of policy implementation structures, and consideration of obstacles to success. Conference participants will be drawn from the local, state, national, and international community. College students and faculty are encouraged to attend and present their findings.

Presenters will share examples of best practices in their state and/or nation of conflict resolution education, community implementation models, policy dissemination, and evaluation results. This event will be open nationally and internationally for anyone who wishes to attend.

The Summit is part of a larger project to enhance and build collaborations to address these challenges in our communities. The components include:

1. Conflict Resolution Education (CRE)/Peace Education (PE) Evaluation Project: A survey of research in 15 global regions on conflict resolution education and peace education will be conducted by colleges and universities in partnership with the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict’s (GPPAC) Peace Education and Conflict Resolution Education Global Reference group and
the International Network on Conflict Resolution Education and Peace Education (INCREPE). The results will be shared at the Summit on March 28th and 29th.

2. Spring 2008 - Integration of the conference themes into the curriculum across disciplines in partner colleges and universities. In addition, free training options such as service learning and action evaluation research will be provided to partner college/university and community partners leading up to the conference.

3. **March 28th and 29th, 2008** – At the Summit, presenters will share examples of best practices within their communities, states, and nations, implementation models, and evaluation results.

4. **March 30th and 31st, 2008** – Closed policy meetings of the International Network on Conflict Resolution Education and Peace Education (INCREPE) and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) reference group will be held. During this time, the global evaluation project will be reviewed and enhancement of the structures for strengthening the networks to support policies and implementation in the field will be discussed.

5. Late Spring/early Summer – Service learning and/or action research projects will be conducted through partnerships between participating organizations and college and university partners.

**Keynotes:** The keynotes are currently in the process of being confirmed. The March 28th keynote will focus on international conflict and youth – child soldiers, with a review of reintegration approaches particularly through education by a government expert. The March 29th keynote will focus on domestic conflict and youth – gangs, with a review of reintegration approaches particularly through education by a government expert.

**March 28th, 2008 – Confirmed** (Biography of confirmed presenters are listed below).

- **Jimmie Briggs, Goodwill Ambassador and UN Special Envoy for Children & Armed Conflict, Author of** *Innocents Lost: When Child Soldiers Go to War.*

- **David J. Smith, Senior Education Program Officer, United States Institute of Peace**

**Summit Features:**

- Workshops and panels led by experts, showcasing best practices in the hemisphere
- Exhibits of local, national, and international resources

**Who should attend:**

- College faculty, staff, and students, K-12 educators and administrators, public health officials, prevention specialists, state, local, national, and international policymakers.

**Cost:** There is a registration fee for the Summit on March 28th and 29th, 2008 with special rates for presenters and college and university partners.

**Credit Offered:** Graduate credit will be offered as well as social work and counselor credit. More information will be provided in November, 2007.

**Planning Committee Members**

Bluffton University
Columbia University, Peace Education Center (Global Campaign for Peace Education)
Cuyahoga Community College
Department of Education, Victoria, Australia
European Centre for Conflict Prevention (Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict)
The Ohio Attorney General’s Office
The Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management
Ohio Department of Education
Ohio Department of Health
Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services
Ohio Resource Network, E-Based Prevention (Ohio’s Safe School Center)
The Ohio School Resource Officer Association.
The Ohio State University, Mershon Center
Temple University

**Current College Partners**
Baldwin-Wallace
Bluffton University
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland State University
Columbia University, Peace Education Center (Global Campaign for Peace Education)
Cuyahoga Community College
John Carroll University
Lorain County Community College
The Ohio State University, Mershon Center
Temple University
Ursuline College
The University of Akron
Walsh University
Wilmington College

**Current Community Partners**
Cleveland Council on World Affairs
The Diversity Center for Northeast, Ohio
The Gazelle Giggles Play Institute
Glenville High School
Nueva Luz
The Ohio State University Extension
On-tasc
Parenting for Peaceful Families
Partnership for a Safer Cleveland
Pathways Foundation for Peace and Healing
RAP Art
Recovery Resources
Winning Against Violent Environments, Cleveland Metropolitan School District
Youth 4 Youth

**Presenters’ Biography:**

**Jimmie Briggs** is the first African American to be appointed as a Goodwill Ambassador and Special Envoy for Children and Armed Conflict by WAFUNIF at the UN. He has worked for the UN Special Session on Children and Seeds of Peace in both New York City and Kabul, Afghanistan, among other organizations. He has received several fellowships for his writing and advocacy. Briggs's work has appeared in The New York Times Magazine, People, Vibe, Bust, and Fortune, and he has served as an adjunct professor of investigative journalism at the New School for Social Research.

In INNOCENTS LOST: When Child Soldiers Go to War journalist Jimmie Briggs explores the lives of child
soldiers and war-affected children, focusing on young people in Uganda, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Colombia, and Afghanistan. He profiles a youth, family member, or advocate in each country to portray that country's specific child-soldier phenomenon. Once recruited, child soldiers may serve as porters or cooks, guards, messengers or spies. Girls may be raped, or in some cases, given to military commanders as wives. Many are pressed into combat, where they may be forced to the front lines, sent into minefields ahead of older troops, or even used on suicide missions. These innocents are forced to commit atrocities against their own family or neighbors, desperate acts that ensure that the child is stigmatized by his or her crime and unable to return to the community. Briggs brings us their tragic stories in this profound and revealing book.

David J. Smith, Senior Education Program Officer, United States Institute of Peace, focuses on secondary, college, and university education in conflict resolution and peace studies. He has nearly twenty years of teaching experience in a variety of educational settings, including thirteen years as an associate professor at Harford Community College where he taught legal studies, conflict resolution, and peace studies. At Harford, he served as chair of the faculty and developed an anger management program for the public school system. He also helped establish the Harford County Community Mediation Program, serving as a county executive appointed commissioner from 1996 to 2005.

As a Fulbright Scholar in 2003–04, Smith taught peace studies and alternative dispute resolution at Tartu University in Tartu, Estonia. He has also taught peace studies at Goucher College (2004–05), was on the faculties of Towson University and Villa Julie College, and has lectured on American mediator practice at Uppsala University in Sweden, and the University of Jammu, in India. Smith participated in the Institute of Peace’s Faculty Seminar for Community College Faculty in 1997.

Early in his career, he practiced law, emphasizing family mediation. Smith holds a B.A. in political science and urban affairs from American University and a J.D. from the University of Baltimore. He is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program at the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University.