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**NEWS RELEASE – “GULF COAST HIGH MODEL UN TEAM TAKES FIRST PLACE AT COLUMBIA”**

They may have been a little cold in New York, but they did it again! Gulf Coast High School’s (GCH) Model United Nations team tackled international topics expertly last weekend and came home with the highest award from the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Columbia University Model United Nations Conference and Exposition (CMUNCE XI) – that honor is first place in the large delegation category.

A total of 23 GCH students travelled to New York for CMUNCE XI to compete against more than 700 students from over 50 schools. This competition was made up entirely of crisis committees discussing subjects ranging from post World War II Europe (Yalta Conference) to the reform of Poland in the late 1980s to the African Union, among many other controversial topics. At CMUNCE, students discuss the issues in a competitive environment simulating crisis meetings that occur within a country, among nations, and even within private company executive boards.

GCH’s Model UN Team not only won their first place delegation award, but 18 of the 23 team members won individual awards in their committees. The students brought home five 1<sup>st</sup> place wins, four 2<sup>nd</sup> place, five 3<sup>rd</sup> place, and four 4<sup>th</sup> place spots. The group is most proud that they beat out the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> ranked teams in the entire country. Congratulations to Gulf Coast High School’s Model UN Team!

To learn more, please contact Gulf Coast High Social Studies teacher Susan Soulard at 377-1400.

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Gulf Coast High School's Model United Nations team wins first place at the Columbia University Model UN Conference and Exposition.

