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James G. Petela, *Advisor* ❖ jpetela@branfordschools.org www.bhsmodelcongress.org

Dear Friends of Model Congress,

Thank you again for your generous support over the years for our Model Congress Program, now in its Third Decade. Throughout the years over 2500 BHS students have been empowered and enriched by participation in over 100 Model Congress events. At each of these events, our BHS MC students (frosh through senior, girls & guys) have performed with excellence and distinction, **winning over 500 awards/gavels, many** at recent year conferences. All of their exceptional efforts, enthusiasm, and achievements have made BHS MC very proud. One student, Spencer Mariotti, exceeded expectations two years ago by winning The Presidency not just at Princeton M.Conference but also Yale & Penn. This has never been done before at BHS MC or at any school in all my years. Spencer also won his 4th Gavel at Harvard MC, in a Special Program. Finally, four of our recent past MC Presidents are now at Yale, chairing committees and also on the executive board for the Yale Model Congress. Needless to say, it has been an award record setting, historic past few years!

The students that have participated in these events have had incredible experiences on so many levels (visit website) and as a result, the number wanting to take part has increased significantly. **Twenty five years ago only 3 students participated in our first year! Last year 130 students attended 3 conferences and this year the same number are eager to begin their experience.** We are especially proud of the growing respect, popularity and performance of this program, the largest of its kind not just in Connecticut but in the Northeast.

In order to continue our program's success & excellence, your help is very much needed. Your support provides much needed scholarships for our students to attend who are well qualified but who simply cannot afford to go. Any amount that you contribute defrays the students' already high costs (over \$600 for the overnight congresses, which entails 5 days/4 nights, and up to 25 hours of MConference activities). **Currently and unfortunately our program is underfunded (we receive only \$1000 from our school for an MC budget of \$60,000).** Needless to say, your support over the years that has made this program affordable & available to many students.

Again, your support and contributions over the years has made a significant difference for our many diverse students, who would not have been able to attend and learn and grow so much from these experiences. And thank you also for motivating, empowering me to continue keeping this program alive and going strong, I can't believe it's now 25 years, it's not easy getting older.

We look forward to your continued support and hopefully seeing you as our special guests at our long overdue Concert with the Yale Whiffenpoofs in 2018/19.

Sincerely & Gratefully,

James G Petela, MC Founding Father

And The Many BHS Model Congress Students

BHS MC Sponsor Categories

Sponsors will have their name recognized on our website www.bhsmodelcongress.org and future public relations and fundraising materials.

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(See Backside for Sponsors 2012--2018)

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c/o Jim Petela, 185 E. Main Str, Branford, CT, 06405

Please print name/organization/business as you
would like it to appear on website and future fundraising materials.

Thank you again very much for your interest and support.

** Don't forget donations are tax deductible **

Email Jim Petela at jpetela@branfordschools.org if needed.

BHS Model Congress \$ponsor\$ 2013 -- 2018

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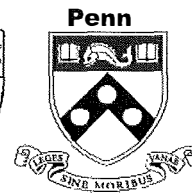
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Thank You Again Sponsors

Your generosity has enabled & empowered many BHS students to afford & attend our Model Congress events.



When in the course of human events a program exists that promotes the civic, cultural, and intellectual aptitudes of our young adults, a decent respect for the opinions of mankind require that we declare the causes which impel us to ask for your support.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all students are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty & the Pursuit of Happiness & Learning, that to secure these rights, a program such as the BHS Model Congress was established to empower Branford students with the experience of democracy, exposure to exceptional cities, ivy colleges, and peers from around the country, and skills in public speaking and collaboration essential for success in college and life.

Four score or four some and many years ago, James Petela brought forth to the Yale campus three BHS students to participate in the first Yale Model Congress, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all male [and female] students are created equal.

Now, eighteen years later, we are engaged in a significant student revolution with students attending not just Yale but also Harvard, Princeton, Penn & Columbia Model Congress that are, in the words of Abe, of the students, by the students, and for the students, which we hope will never perish from this great nation or program of ours.

So I write to you today, my friends, that in spite of the financial difficulties and frustrations of the present moment, I still have a dream. It is a dream rooted in the American dream. That any student, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, age, or wealth, if willing and able to dedicate and to discipline themselves, will be given the opportunity to attend and engage in any or all of the aforementioned major model conferences.

*And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you:
Ask what you can do for your country and community and future
citizen leaders of this great nation. If possible, please help us.*

*Sincerely, James Petela
Founding Father & Advisor of BHS Model Congress*

