

## Focus Areas and Keywords

CGI U's **focus areas** and **keywords** guide conversations within the CGI U community and allow students and alumni members to form strategic networks around common issues. While focus areas are broader in scope and help inform topical opportunities, keywords are used to appropriately pair students with Commitment Mentors, identify featuring opportunities, and have targeted discussions about specific challenges.

### Focus Areas

#### Education

A new generation of innovators is leading initiatives to expand access to education, improve existing education systems, better integrate technology into classrooms, and provide critical higher education opportunities to economically disadvantaged groups. These movements define and improve the central roles that schools, universities, and technology can play in providing academic knowledge, values, and skills for economic and professional development.

#### Environment and Climate Change

Empirical scientific records provide abundant evidence of the dire consequences that climate change is having on both human societies and ecosystems. Throughout the world, a groundswell of eco-entrepreneurs and young leaders are expanding the renewable energy economy, creating green jobs, and accelerating progress towards a sustainable future.

#### Poverty Alleviation

Poverty is both a cause and consequence of inadequate education systems, scarce job opportunities, social exclusion, political instability, violent conflict, food insecurity, demographic pressures, and human migration. Students and universities are tirelessly developing and scaling new innovations in the fields of economic empowerment, affordable technology, and agricultural development that will enable millions around the globe to lift themselves from poverty.

## **Peace and Human Rights**

Human rights abuses stemming from a wide range of geopolitical, military, and cultural conflicts are a scourge on the modern world. Many young leaders are taking action to address these issues by spearheading awareness campaigns, building communities of dialogue on and off campus, and bringing together diverse ethnic, religious, and political groups to forge effective, long-term solutions.

## **Public Health**

Our increasingly interconnected world enables health risks to spread quickly across borders, linking the health of the world's communities more closely than ever before. While many of the world's biggest public health challenges disproportionately affect disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, students are at the forefront of the movement to expand access to essential services and medicines by exploring innovative ways to promote health and prevent disease in both developed and developing regions.

## **Keywords**

### **Access to Health Care**

Access to Health Care commitments work to assure that a specified population receives the mental or physical health care for which there is a recognized need.

### **Agriculture**

Agriculture commitments seek to equip communities with the tools, infrastructure, education, and/or skills needed to successfully farm and produce food. Typically, these commitments are implemented to provide communities with food security, jobs, resource autonomy, and/or economic development through agriculture.

### **Arts and Media**

Arts and Media commitments seek to use artistic (e.g., music, dance, drama) or media (e.g., film screenings, production) projects as a tool for community empowerment, education, therapeutic recuperation, or advocacy.

## **College Readiness**

College Readiness commitments works to both prepare students for a college education and assist college applicants as they navigate the application process.

## **Conservation**

Conservation commitments focus on a wide range of ecosystem protection, education, and restoration projects including biodiversity and wilderness preservation, clean water, and reforestation.

## **Criminal Justice**

Criminal Justice commitments advocate for civil liberties and human rights within the criminal justice system. They do this by working toward prison reform, advocating for inmates or communities at greater risk of being incarcerated, and by providing services for inmates and those recently released.

## **Dialogue and Conflict Resolution**

Dialogue and Conflict Resolution commitments promote peace, meaningful engagement, understanding, and political participation. Through their work, they aim to transcend stereotypes and bridge divisive gaps along gender, ethnic, national, generational, political, and racial lines.

## **Disabilities**

Disabilities commitments work to enhance the lives and communities of people with both physical and mental disabilities through engagement, support, awareness campaigns, services, therapy, and a wide range of tools for handicap accommodation and access.

## **Disaster Response and Resilience**

Disaster Response and Resilience commitments focus on helping regions prevent, prepare for, and recover from natural disasters. They create programs, infrastructure, and/or advocacy campaigns to help communities recover from or decrease the threat of future disasters.

## **Economic Empowerment**

Economic Empowerment commitments aim to equip low-income individuals and communities with the tools, skills, and knowledge necessary to grow financially and harness entrepreneurship as a tool for poverty alleviation.

## **Educational Access**

Educational Access commitments provide the means (i.e. financial, material) and platforms (i.e. infrastructure, technology) necessary for education at all levels.

## **Girls and Women**

Girls and Women commitments work for the benefit of girls and women in a wide range of capacities, from gender equality initiatives to pregnancy clinics, from female leadership programs to sexual violence education and prevention.

## **Health Education**

Health Education commitments work to educate targeted demographics or populations about issues related to mental and physical well-being.

## **Housing and Homelessness**

Housing and Homelessness commitments aim to assist and support individuals who are either homeless or at the risk of homelessness, while promoting long-term innovations in housing affordability.

## **Human Trafficking**

Human Trafficking commitments strive to end the illegal buying, selling, and transferring of people against their will through awareness campaigns, educational films, and prevention workshops on the issue. Commitments within this keyword also focus on the rehabilitation and reintegration of human trafficking survivors back into society.

## **Immigrant and Refugee Populations**

Immigrant and Refugee Populations commitments work to benefit populations who have been displaced or have voluntarily fled hazardous homeland conditions through legal assistance, community services, advocacy, and education.

## **Infectious Diseases**

Infectious Diseases commitments are dedicated to fighting the spread of infectious diseases and supporting those affected by infectious diseases. This is accomplished by instituting treatment initiatives, providing affordable health care, launching education programs, and disseminating preventative and protective devices such as mosquito nets to combat malaria.

## **LGBTQ**

LGBTQ commitments work to end biases and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and they work to improve the lives of those who identify themselves as LGBTQ through social media, access to health care, or by creating support networks in which this population can connect to other LGBTQ individuals.

## **Literacy**

Literacy commitments aim to increase literacy rates and capabilities through education, advocacy, mentoring, tutoring, library construction, book drives, and a wide range of technological innovations.

## **Nutrition and Fitness**

Nutrition and Fitness commitments aim to improve individual health and combat chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease through initiatives such as good and nutrition education, fitness programs, and nutritious food and physical education development in schools.

## **Renewable Energy**

Renewable Energy commitments work to combat the threat of climate change, pollution, and diminishing fossil fuel supplies by creating, discovering, and investing in renewable energy sources. These commitments also promote renewable energy through advocacy and educational initiatives, or by creating programs in which a school or community can reduce its carbon footprint.

## **S.T.E.M. Education**

S.T.E.M. Education commitments promote the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math through advocacy and awareness campaigns, by developing curriculum and technological applications that benefit the field, by using innovative S.T.E.M. curricula to address real-world challenges, and by creating avenues through which a greater number of students can successfully enter into S.T.E.M. fields.

## **Sustainable Design**

Sustainable Design commitments address climate change and work to reduce carbon emissions by integrating energy conservation measures and green design into the existing built environment and ecosystem.

## **Technology**

Technology commitments harness innovation in order to democratize the flow of information, increase connectivity between populations, expand market-based solutions, and deploy a wide range of other sustainable development solutions.

## **Tutoring and Mentoring**

Tutoring and Mentoring commitments provide service to at-risk youth, isolated communities, and other populations in need of a wide range of educational support mechanisms. These commitments place a particular focus on those who may not have ample access to educational opportunity, which could be a result of geographic location, learning disabilities, cultural stigmas, or a challenging home life.

## **Volunteerism and Service**

Volunteerism and Service commitments encourage civic engagement through a wide range of youth leadership and empowerment programs, by working with institutions and businesses to implement volunteering requirements and programs, by connecting disparate groups to one another through internships and service opportunities, and by creating new pathways for volunteer opportunities.

## **Waste Management**

Waste Management commitments find new and efficient ways to utilize and sustainably dispose of waste through closed-loop systems, recycling programs, and a wide range of conservation initiatives.

## **Water and Sanitation**

Water and Sanitation commitments address the lack of access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, particularly in the developing world. They include clean water initiatives, drought relief programs, and sustainable sanitation infrastructure.

## **Workforce Development**

Workforce Development commitments aim to increase economic development by investing in the workforce through professional trainings, small business support, and a wide range of entrepreneurship incubation and mentorship.

## **Youth Empowerment**

Youth Empowerment commitments work to empower children and teens through leadership summits and other youth advocacy initiatives.