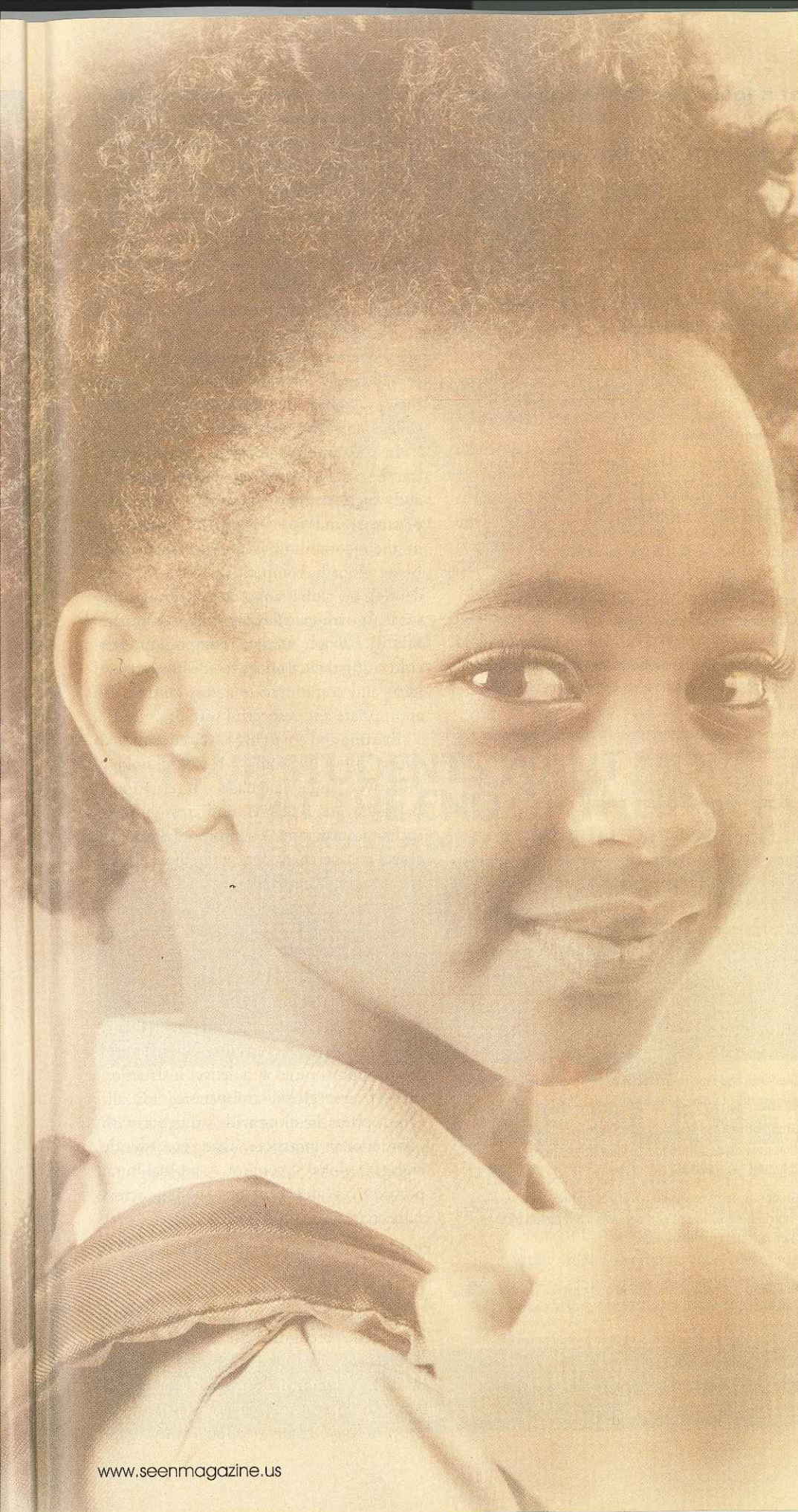


What Do Globally Competent Students Look Like?

By David Young



All of our futures are increasingly linked to the challenges of the global community. The world's population is predicted to grow from our current 7.3 billion to 8.5 billion in 2030 and to nearly 10 billion by 2050. Such population growth will affect a host of global issues including pollution, disease management, and depletion of energy, food and water resources.

For students to participate effectively in this changing world, they must understand it. The 21st century student will sell to the world, buy from the world, work for international companies, compete with people from other countries, manage employees from other cultures, collaborate with people all over the world, and solve global problems.

The mission of the United States Department of Education is "to promote

among students on a daily basis. While the definition of global competence is dynamic, these soft skills and characteristics are widely seen as what students need to be globally competent today.

Appreciation of Culture

Students see their own cultures as strengths, seek to understand the cultures of others, are aware of similarities and differences among cultures, and understand that behaviors and values are often tied to cultures.

Evaluation of Information

Students regularly question easily accessible information to seek deeper understanding and thoughtfully evaluate materials and perspectives, rather than accepting things at face value.

Cross-Cultural Communication Skills

Students effectively exchange ideas with peers and adults from different backgrounds — either virtually or in

person — and have the skills to enter new communities and spaces.

Perspective Taking Skills

Students demonstrate curiosity and empathy and may show compassion for the perspectives of others.

Intelligent Humility

Students understand that their knowledge is not finite and appreciate how much more there is to learn about the world. Students understand the grandiosity of the world and its complexities.

Divergent Thinking

Students see alternative or original solutions to existing problems and can envision the world differently from how it currently exists.

Technological Literacy

Students utilize and explore existing technologies to communicate and collaborate with others, and to learn and

share new ideas and information. Students create new technologies or discover new uses for technologies that help them and others navigate their worlds.

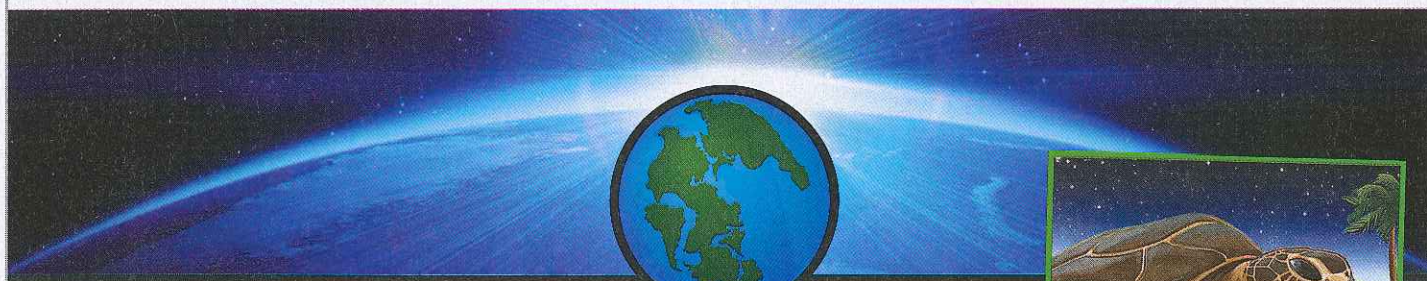
How Do We Effectively Prepare Globally Competent Students

Instruction aimed at helping students develop global competence does not need to be restricted to social studies or global studies courses. Many global education strategies are relevant across grade levels and academic subjects, and can be applied in any classroom. The chart on the preceding page lists just a few examples of instructional strategies that can be used across disciplines to support students in developing key global competence skills.

David Young is CEO of VIF International Education and Executive Board Vice Chair for the Partnership for 21st Century Learning. VIF International Education works to extend global learning opportunities to all K-12 students. For information, visit www.vifprogram.com

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They'll work with students on the other side of the world to create solutions that impact the local and global environment.

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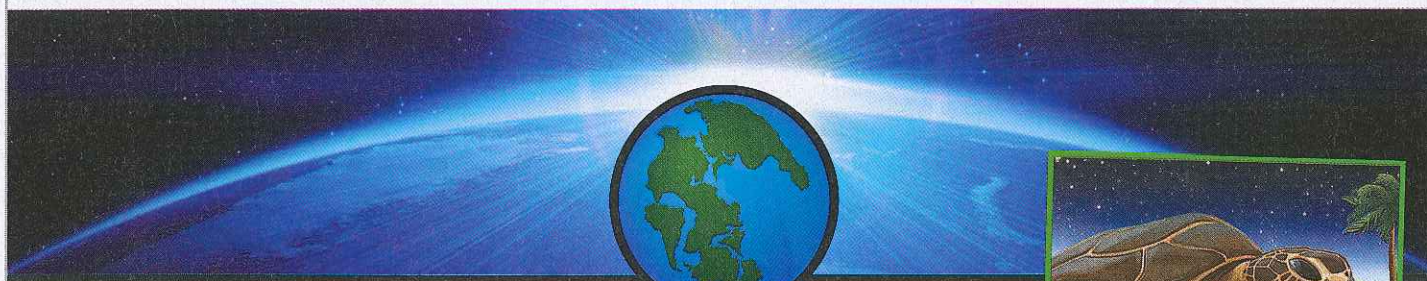
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