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Grow the Future 2020: Climate and Migration

German fellows collaborate with Ransom Everglades students and faculty on climate change

Miami, FL: On February 23rd, 2020, students and faculty from Ransom Everglades and German students invited by the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Washington, DC, met at the Deering Estate as part of the **Grow the Future Cohort** to collaborate on the issue of climate change. We Are Forces of Nature, a Miami-based youth led climate group, hosted the evening.

The Cohort brought 11 young progressive voices from Germany to Miami to learn more about the intersection of migration and the climate crisis, two of the biggest challenges facing Miami.



At the Deering Estate, Dr. Kelly Jackson and Mr. Gustavo Palacios welcomed the group, explaining that Miami's unique limestone geography makes it a frontline community subject to sea-level rise. The group first took a walking tour to discuss how rising sea levels are affecting the flora, fauna, and historic sites located there. Alexandra Gunner, a science teacher at Ransom's middle school, shared a conservation agreement struck with the City of Miami in

explaining how Miami is positioning to handle the crisis of a rising ocean.

The group then had a vegan, plastic-free dinner together while discussing climate activism in the US and Germany and sharing their varied experiences. Over the course of the evening, they tackled everything from current political inaction and propaganda, to the climate's anticipated forced migration of 1 billion people by the year 2050.

Will Charouhis, an 8th grade student, opened the discussion with tales of the sailboat that washed up on RE’s football field during Hurricane Irma. He explained to the group that Miami, once known as The Magic City, is now ground zero for sea-level rise. Charouhis said: “The problem already exists—we are living it. But the solutions already exist too. Some of the solutions are even profitable. And the solutions will make our lives better.”



An observer of these dynamic young game-changers would have walked away with a bit of science knowledge, and whole lot of hope for our future.

The Heinrich Böll Stiftung is a non-profit organization headquartered in Berlin, with international offices in Washington, DC, and more than thirty countries around the world, aiming to create a network of promising young leaders in Germany who are leading movements to tackle the biggest challenges of our time—from fighting climate change, to protecting human rights and open societies, to ensuring a sustainable future for the next generation. We Are Forces of Nature is a Miami-based youth-led non-profit organization whose mission is to stop climate change, founded by Will Charouhis.