

## For Immediate Release

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**Milwaukee, Wisconsin. March 3, 2016** - The Milwaukee Hub of the World Economic Forum's Global Shapers community is pleased to announce that Carmen Northwest High School sophomore Alvin Watts has been selected to participate in a Group of Seven ("G7") Youth Summit in Hiroshima, Japan. This trip is in conjunction with Shape Asia Pacific 2016, a meeting which convenes all Global Shapers from hubs in Asia Pacific. The Youth Summit will focus on international peace and take place from March 18 - March 21. All expenses are paid by the Global Shapers in Japan and their local sponsors.

24 high school students were selected for the summit, 12 from Japan and 12 from G7 countries to engage in conversations around international peace—Alvin was one of only two selected from the United States. During the summit, participants will be able to touch on the reality of the atomic bombing. Alvin will visit the Peace Memorial Museum, offer flowers at the Cenotaph for the atomic bomb victims, and listen to accounts by atomic bomb survivors. Participants will also draft a "Hiroshima Declaration" after discussing what young people can do to help realize a more peaceful world. At the end of the summit, participants will visit the island of Miyajima, in Hiroshima, for further cultural experiences.

"When I was young, my father passed away while reconstructing our home. I carry with me his dream to travel overseas. A kid from Milwaukee going halfway across the world sounds crazy, but it's happening to me! I'm thankful for the opportunity to have one of my dreams become a reality. This is going to change my outlook on the world and inspire me to see the rest of it." - Alvin Watts

Maurice Thomas, Vice Curator of the Milwaukee Global Shapers Hub was a part of the nomination and selection process that choose Alvin, and will be participating as his chaperone throughout the duration of the trip. While in Japan, Mr. Thomas will also participate in Shape Asia Pacific 2016, to share the challenges and opportunities for peace in Milwaukee with Global Shapers from around the world. Mr. Thomas is the Founder & Executive Director of Milwaukee Excellence Charter School.

"I believe deeply in providing all students with life-changing opportunities. I have no doubt this will be a formative experience for Alvin. When the opportunity was presented that two students from the United States would be selected as part of the delegation, I did everything to make sure a student from Milwaukee was selected. Alvin balances Advanced Placement courses and track practice with his love for drawing. You're not going to find a more deserving young man." - Maurice Thomas

### About Global Shapers:

The World Economic Forum is an international institution committed to improving the state of the world through public-private cooperation in the spirit of global citizenship. It engages with business, political, academic and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas. The Global Shapers Community is a worldwide network of Hubs developed and led by promising young leaders who want to build on their achievements and entrepreneurial drive to make a positive contribution to their communities. Nominated under the age of 30, Shapers form a multi-stakeholder community and come from a variety of races, cultures, and backgrounds including business, education, government, civil society, journalism, social entrepreneurialism, arts and culture.

To see a list of members and learn more about the Shapers community in Milwaukee, please visit [www.globalshapers.org/hubs/milwaukee](http://www.globalshapers.org/hubs/milwaukee)

To learn more about Shape Asia Pacific, please visit [www.shapehiroshima.jp](http://www.shapehiroshima.jp)

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