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Peace Through Education

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A University of Dayton professor will join world leaders in education in Jerusalem next week to explore how peace can be obtained through education.

"If you start with the kids, it will work its way up," said Charles J. Russo, an expert in educational law who speaks regularly at universities and conferences around the globe.

Russo will use his international experience to address children's right to education as a speaker at the "Pacification through Education" workshop sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Jan. 7-9.

"It's been widely accepted since the 1940s that education is a universal right," he said, referring to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. "We are trying to ensure that kids, no matter where they live, have access to education."

One of only two Americans speaking at the workshop, Russo plans to discuss the roles of racial segregation in U.S. schools and ethnic and religious segregation in other nations such as Bosnia and Serbia in breeding intolerance.

Russo has been a visiting professor at Potchefstroom (now Northwest) University in South Africa, Queensland University of Technology in Australia, South East European University in Macedonia, the University of Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

He contributes articles regularly to Education Law Reporter, School Business Affairs and a wide array of publications.