

The East-West Initiatives Student Leadership Forum

1. INTRODUCTION

It has never been more important that we prepare the generation of our future leaders to understand our world, move beyond a world of walls and suspicion and lead effectively with mutual respect for others. We have the responsibility to instil in our young people and future leaders the ability to love one another more easily and deeply. As we break down barriers between different cultures, we open the way to a better future. We intend to prepare a new generation of leaders through understanding, shared experiences and friendships through our East-West Initiative.

As an integral module of class 401 Student Leadership of the Student Leadership University (SLU) one-hundred American and one-hundred Jordanian college students will be selected, trained and then participate in a four day leadership program in the Kingdom of Jordan. Future leaders will be equipped with tools towards understanding and new lasting relationships that influence their worldview. Future leaders will be equipped with a new vision for the possibility of world peace.

The Forum requests that local Jordanian schools select 100 students to participate in The East-West Initiative-Student Leadership Forum. Criteria for selection should be based upon: exhibiting leadership qualities, having an interest in being a world citizen, competent to be an effective and respectful ambassador for Jordan and showing a desire to improve the world around them.

The East-West Initiative-Student Leadership Forum is a new initiative. At present, over thirty-thousand (30,000) students have participated in the various SLU programs around the world. Students, that Dr. Jay Strack, the President and Founder, which show exceptional leadership qualities, will be selected to complete class 401 by participating in an annual Student Leadership Forum to be held in the Kingdom of Jordan over the next five years.

2. METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

2.1 *Pre-Program preparation*

- Each student submits a list of perceptions and stumbling blocks to inter cultural understanding
- Each student submits five (5) suggestions to bridge the gap of cultural misunderstandings
- At the conclusion of the program each student will answer the same two questions above and compare

2.2 *Pre-Program training in cultural understanding and dialogue*

- The students will receive training in inter-cultural interaction
- The students will receive training in the skills of listening, understanding different viewpoints and engaging in effective dialogue

2.3 *Getting to know one another*

- American and Jordanian students will participate in four days of intense shared experiences and exchange of life experiences with each other
- Each American student will spend time with a Jordanian counterpart
- Students will make new friendships that will expand the way they view events that effect our world

2.4 *Getting to know one another's world*

- The program includes visits of cultural, religious and everyday social sites and activities
- Social, religious, political and educational leaders will present topics from their community on understanding and how we can love another well
- The students will develop new friendships in the context of understanding differences and breaking barriers

2.5 *Daily debriefing and discussion*

- Each day will end with small group discussions on the day's content and experiences which encourage each student to use and develop skills of listening, dialogue and discussion

3. SPEAKERS AND PRESENTATIONS

3.1 *Speakers to engage and challenge students' understanding*

- H.M. King Abdullah II and/or Queen Rania
- Jay Strack, Director of Student Leadership University
- David Ferguson, Director and Founder of Center for Relational Leadership
- Islamic Cleric (preferably chosen by H.M. King Abdullah II)
- Christian Priest (preferably chosen by H.M. King Abdullah II)
- Prominent business person from Middle East (tba)

3.2 *Venues to offer unique and impacting cultural experiences*

- King Abdullah II Mosque
- Jerash amphitheatre
- Dead Sea
- Locations to be determined

3.3 *Topics of presentations*

- Leadership
- Koran teaching/presentation: How can we love one another?
- Bible teaching/presentation: How can we love one another?
- Leadership through relationships and understanding
- Understanding different perspectives with one common goal: To love one another

4. CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS AND COMMUNITY VISITS

4.1 Jerash

4.2 Dead Sea

4.3 Baptismal site at the Jordan River

4.4 Mt. Nebo

4.5 Petra

4.6 Amman

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 Each student must submit a paper to include:

- How the program changed impressions for the need for understanding, nurturing relationships, preconceived notions of Americans/Jordanians and the benefit of cross cultural understanding through relationships
- An action plan towards steps in greater understanding, nurturing an atmosphere of progress and peace for the world and showing love to others as a result of the program

5.2 Equip future leaders with better understanding of our world, its conflicts as well as differences and similarities

5.3 Through personal relationships and shared experiences, future leaders have greater capacity for understanding and compassion

The organizers and participants offer this opportunity to a number of students that would meet the criteria for selection but would be unable to meet the financial obligations as well as offer Arab hospitality of covering the costs of our guest students. Hopefully, financial contributions, special fees and services and entrance fees that can be reduced and/or waived can achieve these goals.