

## **MIDDLE EAST PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE (MEPI) – STUDENT LEADERS PROGRAM**

*Internal deadline is **Friday, January 16, 2009***

MEPI Student Leaders Program promotes increasing awareness and acceptance of civic rights and responsibilities and builds support for reformers. MEPI participants will utilize their experience from the program to practice leadership and promote democratic principles in their home countries. It solicits participants from 18 countries in the Middle East. Each candidate will be assigned to one of six selected host institutions/universities in the U.S. The main focus of the program will be leadership in different capacities (government, community, civil society, private sector, etc.)

While nominees may be students in any field of academic specialization, it is critical that they exhibit a serious interest in pursuing leadership opportunities in their home countries. All candidates must be prepared to engage seriously in class discussions and they are expected to take advantage of the opportunity to educate Americans about their countries and regions, cultures and customs.

MEPI Student Leaders Program is five weeks long and starts on June 29, 2009.

Iraq will nominate 6 principal candidates and 3 alternates.

### **Participants' qualifications:**

1. Current university student, age 19 -23
2. Demonstrated English language ability – proficient in conversational and written English
3. Committed to returning to their home country following completion of the program
4. Demonstrates strong leadership potential
5. Indicates a serious interest in learning about the U.S.
6. Has a sustained high level of academic achievement, as indicated by academic grades, awards, and teacher recommendations
7. Demonstrates commitment to community
8. Has little or no study or travel experience outside Iraq (nominees with travel to the U.S. after their 12<sup>th</sup> birthday will not/not be accepted)
9. Is mature responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant and inquisitive
10. Is willing and able to fully participate in an intensive academic program, community service, and active educational travel program
11. Is comfortable with campus life, shared accommodations while traveling with a multinational group from Middle East, North Africa and US, and making adjustments to different cultural and social practices

Embassy Baghdad contact for questions and to submit nominations:

Veronika Arky

Exchange Assistant, Cultural Affairs Office

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**MEPI – STUDENT LEADERS PROGRAM - APPLICATION FORMAT**

**U.S. EMBASSY BAGHDAD**

THE DEADLINE FOR THIS APPLICATION IS JANUARY 16, 2009

A. Full Name, exactly as it appears on his/her passport.

Surname:

First Name:

Middle Name(s):

B. Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY):

C. City of Birth:

D. Country of Birth:

E. Country of Residence: IRAQ

F. Country of Citizenship: IRAQ

G. Gender:

H. Full Home Address (include street, city and postal zone):

I. Telephone:

J. E-mail:

K. Medical, Physical, Dietary or other Personal Considerations:

Please state if the candidate has any existing medical conditions or is currently taking any prescription medication. This will not affect candidate selection, but will enable the host institution to make any necessary accommodations.

L. Name of candidate's college/university:

M. Candidate's field of study:

N. Work Experience, including positions and titles (if applicable):

O. Education, academic and professional training, including degree earned and fields of specialization (if applicable). Please also note any special honor or awards received:

P. Active memberships:

Q. Special interests:

R: Extracurricular activities:

R. Previous travel and study outside of home country (include dates):

S. Evidence of proficiency in English (e.g., personal interview, test scores, etc.):

T. Future study or career plans:

U. Statement by nominator justifying participation of nominee in the program:

1. Likely relevance of the program to the future study or career plans of the nominee
2. The potential impact of the candidate's participation in the program
3. The relevance of the candidate's participation in the program to the PRT's long-term U.S. Studies, public diplomacy or other goals

V. Nominator's name, phone number and email address: