



National
Council
on US-
Arab
Relations

2014
Annual
Review

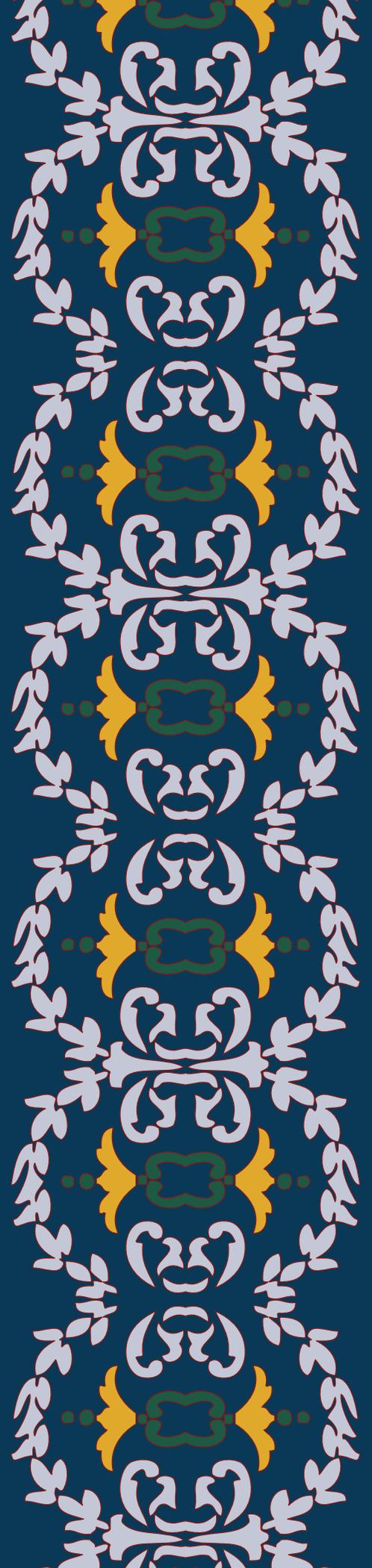


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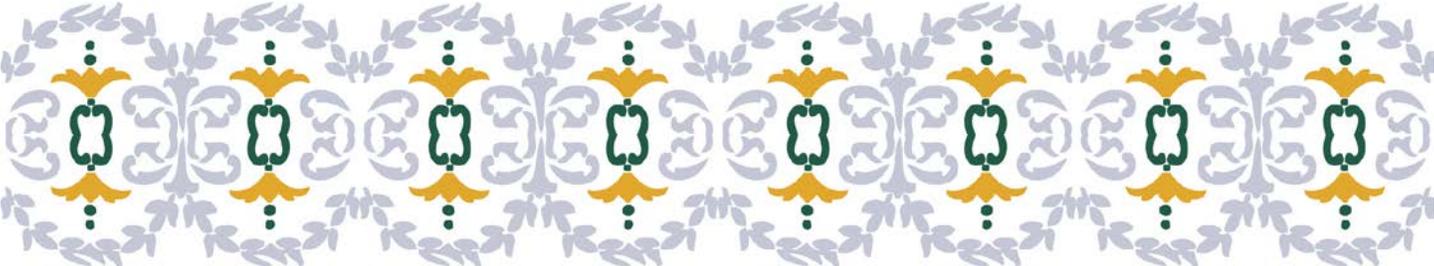
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About the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Founded in 1983, the National Council is an American educational, non-profit, and non-governmental organization. The Council is dedicated to improving American knowledge and understanding of the Arab world through *eight* different annual programs, events, and activities.

First, the National Council is committed to educating, training, and developing the leadership skills of the current and emerging generation of Americans tasked with improving the overall U.S.-Arab relationship. From one Council leadership development effort alone, the Model Arab League Program, there are more than 38,000 alumni. The annual number of participants in the Council's sixteen Models – through 2013, held in thirteen cities throughout the United States and in the Arab world as well averages 2,000. We are pleased to report that contributions from supporters have enabled the Council to administer **three additional Models in 2014-2015**.

As evidence of the extraordinary value that comes through participation in the Models, *every single Council employee is a graduate of this program*. Each one has exhibited the sterling leadership qualities necessary for helping to strengthen and expand the youth component of the Arab-U.S. relationship.

Second, the National Council is unique in another way: it is the world's only organization to have administered for 23 years and counting an annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference. The Conference brings together many of the foremost American and Arab specialists. The scope and focus of their contributions encompass the multiple dynamics of the overall relationship between the United States and Arab governments, economies, and societies. For each of the past three years the Conference has drawn record numbers of more than 1,250 registrants. Through coverage for four of the past six years by C-SPAN, the award-winning international satellite television network, additional millions have been able to benefit from the proceedings through that medium as well as the Council's website at ncusar.org.

A **third** National Council highlight is its intensive student work-study internship program. In the past year alone the Council trained more than thirty interns over the course of the academic year and the summer. In cooperation with The George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs, the ten-week University Student Summer Internship Program, administered for the seventh consecutive year in association with *eighteen* sister organizations in the nation's capital, provided a professional work experience together with a twenty-part seminar on "Arabia, The Gulf, The GCC, and The U.S.-Arab Relationship."



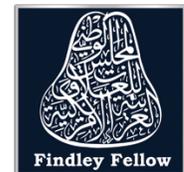
National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations



Arabia, the Gulf, and the GCC Blog



U.S.-GCC Corporate Cooperation Committee



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An exciting new feature of the National Council's 2014 University Student Summer Internship Program, in which 25 interns participated, was the institution of *Findley Fellowships*. The Fellowships were granted at the end of the program to four of the most outstanding interns. The awardees were selected for having met two criteria. First, they excelled in the program's academic component. Second, in their character, integrity, dedication, and overall professionalism, they were judged as having exemplified throughout the seminar the extraordinary critical thinking and communications skills as well as the moral, leadership, educational, and, especially, courageous traits of conviction and commitment associated with the life and works of former long-serving Congressman Paul Findley, a founding member and, since 2014, Co-Chairman, together with HRH Prince Abdulaziz Bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Sa'ud, of the Council's International Advisory Committee.

A **fourth** National Council program is designed to contribute positively to the national public and private sector conversations about American policies, positions, attitudes, and actions towards the Arab world and its peoples. To this end, the Council administers a series of seminars year-round on Capitol Hill and in other venues. In each instance, one or more internationally renowned specialists is tasked with analyzing, assessing, and recommending more effective American approaches to dealing with some of the most important challenges confronting American and Arab policymakers in matters of common concern. The seminars held in Congressional hearing rooms are typically filled to capacity. In attendance are Members of Congress, Congressional staff, the media, research and publications specialists in prominent public policy research institutes, members of the international diplomatic corps, and other foreign affairs practitioners.

A **fifth** National Council activity is a specialized publications program. For the *past seven* years, the Council has achieved this, in part, through an electronic newsletter – the *Council Chronicle* – that appears four times a year, through an *Annual Review*, and through its ongoing close relationship with the publications of the *Saudi-U.S. Relations Information Service (SUSRIS)* and the Saudi-U.S. Trade Group. Another feature of the Council's outreach and continuing efforts to provide perspective on matters pertaining to the overall Arab-U.S. relationship, and to Arabia and the Gulf in particular, is the Council's blog: *Arabia, the Gulf, and the GCC*, which features cutting-edge analyses by Council President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony and other specialists. Visit the blog at: ncusar.org/blog.



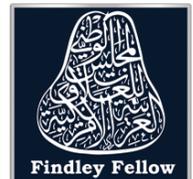
H.E. Mohammed Jaham Al Kuwari, Ambassador of Qatar to the United States, addresses an April 2014 National Council Congressional Briefing Event in the Rayburn House Office Building.

Kuwait, periodically gather the CEOs and other key representatives of like-minded sister organizations that are committed to strengthening and expanding the positive features in the overall Arab-U.S. relationship. The objective of the meetings, beyond deepening the bonds of trust, confidence, and a willingness to join forces in pursuit of common goals, is to provide evidence to the respective organizations' "shareholders" that their financial, in-kind, and other investments in and contributions to what the organizations seek to accomplish have not been and are not in vain.



Former U.S. Congressman Paul Findley, a founding Member of the National Council's Advisory Board and since 2014 its Co-Chairman, pictured here with Dr. John Duke Anthony in 1985, served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 22 years, representing the 20th District of Illinois. In 2013, the Council presented Congressman Findley its first-ever Distinguished Public Service and Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 2014 the National Council instituted the Findley Fellowship Award to recognize outstanding participants in the Council's University Student Summer Internship Program. Students honored as Findley Fellows are presented this lapel pin to display their achievement.



Running through all of the National Council's programmatic works, activities, and other public services is the Council's vision for the U.S.-Arab relationship. The Council's vision is anchored in the legitimate needs, concerns, interests, and key foreign policy objectives of the American and Arab peoples. Resting on a solid and enduring foundation of strategic, economic, political, commercial, and defense cooperation, the vision encompasses the belief that the relationship is strengthened continuously by a range of richly rewarding projects, programs, events, and activities, chief amongst which are exchanges and the Arab-U.S. relations skills development of present and emerging American and Arab leaders. The pages that follow highlight the nature and number of many of the extraordinary leaders who have joined forces with the Council in support of its vision. Each recognizes the Council as the only American organization that annually organizes and administers an event expressly designed to improve the U.S.-Arab relationship: namely, the annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference.

Specialists at National Council Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conferences have included, in clockwise order from the top left, a (1) Chairman of the U.S. Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff; (2) former Director General of Saudi Arabia's General Intelligence Directorate as well as Ambassador to Great Britain and the United States; (3) Commissioner of the United Nations Human Rights Council mandated Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic and former Under Secretary General and Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East; (4) current Commanding General of U.S. Central Command, the lead forward deployed U.S. armed forces command responsible for protecting U.S. national security-related interests in 20 nations, stretching from the Nile Valley, the Levant, the Fertile Crescent, Arabia, the Gulf, and South and Central Asia; (5) former multiple-times Deputy Assistant Secretary at four U.S. Cabinet-level posts; (6) the Department of Defense's immediate past lead analyst on Iraq; (7) Kuwait University Professor of International Relations and Chairman of its American Studies Unit; and (8) the United Arab Emirates Minister of Foreign Trade:



General Martin Dempsey



HRH Prince Turki Al Faisal



Ms. Karen Koning AbuZayd



General Lloyd Austin III



The Hon. Molly Williamson



Dr. Judith Yaphe



Dr. Abdullah Al-Shayji



H.E. Sheikha Lubna Al-Qasimi

The National Council's *mission* is educational. It is committed to building, maintaining, and wherever possible strengthening and expanding the human, institutional, and programmatic bridges between and among the American and Arab public and private sectors. The Council seeks, in particular, to enhance American awareness and appreciation of the multi-faceted and innumerable benefits that the United States and the American people have long obtained, and continue to derive, from the overall U.S.-Arab relationship. But one among many hallmarks of the Council's mission is its emphasis on the publication and dissemination of documented facts.

In pursuit of its mission, the National Council serves as a U.S.-Arab relations programmatic, human resources, and leadership development clearinghouse. In so doing, it provides cutting edge information, insight, and learning opportunities for national, state, and local grassroots educational organizations, media, and public policy research institutes in addition to select community civic, business, and professional associations.

Model Arab League

Arab-U.S. Relations Youth Leadership Development Program

2013-2014 marked the 31st year of the **National Council's flagship Arab-U.S. Student Leadership Development Program, the *Model Arab League (MAL)***. The Models are similar in organization and format to the older and more widely recognized Model United Nations, with its 193 members. An important difference between the two is that the MAL focuses only on the 22 member countries that comprise the League of Arab States. Established in February 1945, and thereby pre-dating the founding of the United Nations, the Arab League is the world's oldest regional political organization dedicated to, among other things, the diplomatic and peaceful settlement of disputes.

The Models provide primarily American but also Arab and other international students opportunities to develop invaluable leadership skills. In few if any other ways elsewhere in the United States do the student participants have a comparable chance to work with their fellows for common goals and shared interests. Among all the 18 sister NGOs with which the National Council has a cooperative relationship, and among America's 2,800 colleges and universities as well, we know of no other opportunity that allows emerging leaders to learn firsthand what it is like to put themselves in the shoes of real-life Arab diplomats and other foreign affairs practitioners. In the process, the students come to realize unavoidably and inevitably how different these international relations realities are in comparison to what they previously thought and inaccurately assumed to be true based on what they had read and "learned," or not read, "not learned," and therefore not known or understood before.

Given the present state of world affairs, the fact that the National Council enables thousands of American, Arab, and other youth to grapple with the international challenges of representing the legitimate needs, concerns, interests, and key foreign policy objectives of a government other than their own, and especially that of an Arab country, has obvious merit in and of itself. In the process, students not only deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Arab world and its peoples. They also have an extraordinary chance to develop and practice useful analytical, organizational, writing, editing, and public speaking skills. In so doing they strengthen their ability to engage in the art of reasoned argument and spirited debate. In the process, they have an unparalleled opportunity to hone and refine their leadership attributes. For many students such

opportunities are often unavailable or otherwise difficult to acquire in the course of reading a book, viewing films, videos, or television, listening to a specialist, participating in academic classes, attending briefings, or accessing blogs and the Internet.

Educating, Training, and Developing Today The Arab-U.S. Relations Leaders of Tomorrow

The Models enhance students' abilities to discuss and debate the national and regional defense, economic, political, social, and related issues and policies of the Arab countries they choose to represent. Using parliamentary procedure – for those who have

never had an opportunity to learn or practice it before, they soon acquire a mastery of the art – the students wrangle with one another over matters pertaining to the proper course of concerted policy formulation and action with regard to such weighty matters as Palestinian affairs and ongoing challenges of governance, security, stability, and development in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Syria and more together with matters pertaining to human rights, justice, defense cooperation, and the environment.



Student delegates display their awards for being an "Outstanding Delegate" at the National University Model Arab League in Washington, DC.



National Council Founding President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony with student award winners at the National High School Model Arab League in Washington, DC.

As in real life public policy debates, participants have no choice if their goal is to be successful but to be as well prepared, organized, disciplined, and focused as possible. In addition, they must be able to advocate their viewpoints with facts, command of language, clear oral and written expression, and the passion of their convictions as well as all the logic, strength of argument, and erudition they can muster in support of their position. What is more, participants have no option but to try to be as effective as they can within prescribed requirements, limitations, and procedures, including tight time constraints. For example, in keeping with established rules of order and depending on the issue and the procedural



A student addresses the Plenary Session at the National Model in Washington, DC.

dynamics in play, the Models' Secretaries General, Assistant Secretaries General, and Standing Council Chairs (each of whom is elected by their peers) are tasked with confining the authorized debates, depending on the question or resolution under consideration, to variants of thirty seconds, one minute, three minutes, and/or a maximum of five minutes.

There's no mistaking either the rarity or the human resource development value of such an enterprise. Arguably few American students and other young adults receive or have received as comprehensive a level of training and firsthand experience. In the field of Arab-U.S. relations, only the Models provide the coming generation of tomorrow's leaders the opportunity to practice and master what it

takes to become proficient in public affairs leadership abilities. The more than 2,200 students who annually participate in the National Council's 22 Annual Model Arab Leagues held in 13 cities throughout the United States – with three more being added for 2014-2015 – are unique in more than nature and number. Performing under the watchful eyes of their faculty advisers and adult judges, the students are eager to prove to themselves, their teachers, and their families that they are worth every penny of the investment made to enable them to participate in – and reap the rewards from – this one-of-a-kind component of their education. To that end there is no way around the students' having to study hard, conduct serious research, and prepare as effectively as they can in advance of the Models.

Strengthening and Expanding Arab-U.S. People-to-People Ties

First-time readers of the *Council Chronicle* often ask whether it is the case that, in some cities, there is more than one Model. The answer is yes. The reason has to do with popular demand. That is, owing to the immense popularity of this program and students' wanting to participate in it year after year for as long as they can in order to gain and continuously strengthen the guaranteed benefits, what typically happens at the end of numerous Models is that most of the student and faculty participants immediately register to participate in the next year's Model at the same venue. As powerful and welcome a validation of a given Models' value as this is, there is another side to the coin. Indeed, no sooner does a Model end than veteran Model Arab League student participants rush to reserve space for their participation in the following year's Model. The result has been twofold. On one hand, there is little if any room for new universities and students that would like to participate – and there are many in both categories. On the other, students newly aware of such opportunities and who want to participate would be unable to do so were new Models not established to accommodate the growing number of applicants. It is in this way that the early 1980s original number of slightly more than 100 participants has grown twenty-fold to more than 2,000 per year and annually continues to increase.

Beyond the proven leadership development skills and achievements that are the hallmarks of the Models' experience, an additional incentive in recent years has been student and faculty awareness of the increasing number of extraordinary additional benefits for which Model alumni become eligible. Indeed, participation in the Models has become a gateway for Model delegates winning National Council scholarships. Such scholarships grant the recipients entry into, first, the Council's Annual University and High School Student Summer Internship Programs in the nation's capital, second, the Council's Arabic Language and Study Abroad Programs in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Oman, and, third, inclusion in study visits to Qatar and Saudi Arabia.



MAL helps prepare students to be knowledgeable, well-trained, and effective citizens as well as civic and public affairs leaders.

In the past year, 54 young American alumni of the National Council's Model Arab League Program received, as a direct result of their participation in the Models, coveted educational fellowships or grants of one kind or another.

Acceptance and fulfillment of the requirements of each of these awards has enabled the students to strengthen their Arab-U.S. leadership skills in preparation for careers in international affairs and service in their country's public and private sectors.

The Council's 2014 ten-week Washington, DC University Student Summer Internship Program combined professional work experiences in international affairs organizations with an academic seminar on Arabia and the Gulf; *eight of the 25 interns were MAL alumni.* For the seventh year in succession, the academic portion of the program, chaired and directed by Dr. Anthony, who addressed the interns eight times, was held at The George Washington University's Elliot School of International Affairs. A special feature of the 2014 Internship Program was the holding of a summer Model Arab League at Georgetown University.

In addition, in the Council's two cultural immersion visits for university students to Saudi Arabia in 2013, all 20 of the participants were MAL alumni, and all 15 participants in the Council's 2014 study visit to Qatar were MAL student and faculty alumni (see pages 9-10).

Scope and Focus of the Council's Network for Preparation and Participation

In preparation for participating in a Model, all students are able to benefit from assistance provided by the National Council's national network of supporters and volunteers. For example, each of the participants is able to obtain additional assistance by accessing *the Council's staff, the entirety of which is comprised of alumni of the Model Arab League Program.* Many also gain from contacting the numerous Arab embassies that support the Models. Still other participants are guided by one or more of the faculty advisers in 800 American universities where alumni of the Council's Malone Faculty Fellows in Arab and Islamic Studies Program are resident. What makes the Fellows unique sources of information and insight is their empirical first-hand experience in Arab-U.S. relations derived from their having participated in the Council's educational study abroad cultural immersion programs in one or more of the Arab countries that, in support of the Council's mission and what it seeks to accomplish, have hosted the Fellows.



Participants in the National Council's Washington, DC Summer Internship Program (pictured here visiting H.E. Ambassador Dr. Mohammed Alhussaini Alsharif, Head of the League of Arab States Information Office in Washington, DC in July 2014) are provided professional work experiences combined with twice-weekly evening seminars that bring academic specialists and experienced foreign policy practitioners to brief and meet with the interns in candid off-the-record discussions.



National Council President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony, Youth Leadership Development Programs Director Josh Hilbrand, and Public Relations Specialist Nabil Sharaf escorted 10 outstanding Model Arab League students and 5 outstanding faculty advisors, pictured here, on a study visit to Qatar in November 2014.



Model Arab League faculty advisors, many of them alumni of the Council's Malone Fellows in Arab and Islamic Studies Program, at the 2014 National Model Arab League in Washington, DC.



Students work to draft a resolution for the Council on Environmental Affairs at the National University Model Arab League in Washington, DC.

From November 2013 through April 2014, the National Council sponsored and administered 16 Model Arab Leagues in 13 U.S. cities for 2,200 students in more than 100 American secondary schools and universities. University Model Arab Leagues were conducted in Boston, Massachusetts at Northeastern University; Allendale, Michigan at Grand Valley State University; Oxford, Ohio at Miami University; Spartanburg, South Carolina at Converse College; Washington, DC at Georgetown University; Commerce, Texas at Texas A&M University-Commerce; Houston, Texas at the University of Houston; Santa Rosa, California at Santa Rosa Junior College; Santa Barbara, California at the University of California at Santa Barbara; and Salt Lake City, Utah at the University of Utah. High School Models were conducted in Atlanta, Georgia at The Marist School; Boston, Massachusetts at Northeastern University; Little Rock, Arkansas at the University of Arkansas; New York, New York at Columbia University; and Washington, DC at Georgetown University.



Through participation in the Model Arab League students not only deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Arab world and its peoples. They are also able to develop and practice useful analytical, organizational, parliamentary procedure, writing, editing, and public speaking skills. In so doing they strengthen their ability to engage in the art of reasoned argument and spirited debate. In the process, they have an unparalleled opportunity to hone and refine leadership attributes that for many are often unavailable or otherwise difficult to acquire.

The National Council's Model Arab League Program helps prepare students to be knowledgeable, well-trained, and effective citizens as well as civic and public affairs activists. The skill sets acquired and practiced in the course of the Models are designed to serve the participants well regardless of the career or profession they elect to pursue. As MAL Program Coordinator Josh Hilbrand has noted, "We're providing future leaders the experience of being in the shoes of – and having to deal with – someone they might never understand or be able to deal with effectively otherwise. ***The beneficiaries are America and the world's coming generation of diplomats, other international relations specialists, business representatives, and educators as well as humanitarians, peace and justice activists, armed services personnel, and future conflict preventers as well as resolvers.***"



Student participants review amendments to a resolution in the Council on Social Affairs at the National University Model in Washington, DC.



A cadet from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York displays her Outstanding Delegate certificate for her representation of Somalia in the Council on Political Affairs.

The National Council's Model Arab League Student Leaders Visit Saudi Arabia

The National Council, in partnership with the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission (SACM) and the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), organized and escorted a delegation of ten Model Arab League students on a cultural immersion study visit to Saudi Arabia from December 27, 2013 to January 7, 2014. The visit provided the young American leaders a hands-on experience in a leading Arab and Islamic country that few others their age have had or, absent their participation in the Models, they are likely to obtain.

In the 2013-2014 academic year, over 92,000 Saudi Arabian students were enrolled in American universities across the United States. Accompanying them were additional tens of thousands of spouses and dependents. In marked contrast, fewer than twenty American students in U.S. institutions of higher education were among those privileged over the same period of time in having a firsthand university-level educational experience in Saudi Arabia.

In an effort to help narrow this "knowledge, understanding, and empirical experience gap," the National Council has partnered with SACM and MOHE. The goal: to provide a firsthand educational introduction to the kingdom's culture and society. For whom? For a select group of American students who have performed exceptionally well in the Council's Model Arab League student leadership development program. During the course of the visit, the students met Saudi Arabian educators, business representatives, civil society leaders, and American diplomats in addition to visiting numerous sites of cultural, developmental, and historical interest.



The National Council's Model Arab League student delegation visits the Royal Commission for Jubail.

The study visit's student participants were selected from applicants with outstanding records of professionalism, research, debate, and leadership at one or more of the National Council's 16 Model Arab Leagues in 2013. The students were led by veteran Council staff members Megan Geissler and Model Arab League Faculty Advisor Dr. Timothy K. Welliver from Bellarmine University, himself an alumnus of the Council's Malone Fellows Program in Arab and Islamic Studies in Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Ten students were chosen from as many different universities involved in the Models, producing a delegation of talented emerging American leaders from institutions of higher education throughout the United States. An additional unique feature of the program is that the students all had a minimum of two semesters remaining before completion of their undergraduate degree. This ensured that they would have **a full year to share what they learned in and about Saudi Arabia** with their classmates, professors, and members of their community's civic, business, and professional associations.

The program began with a pre-departure orientation session at the National Council's Washington, DC office. The objective was threefold. First, it was to introduce the participants to some of America's and Saudi Arabia's foremost scholars and specialists on Saudi Arabia and Saudi Arabia-U.S. relations who the students could use as resource references from that point going forward. Second, it was to provide the students otherwise hard to come by background, context, and perspective regarding what they would experience. Third, it was to provide examples of how the students could most effectively share their newfound knowledge and understanding with as many people as possible following their return to the United States.

Upon arrival in Saudi Arabia, the delegation visited Riyadh, the capital, in the Central Province; Dhahran, Saudi Aramco, and Jubail Industrial City – one of the world's most vital energy industry-centric cities, located in the Eastern Province; and Jeddah, long referred to as "Bride of the Red Sea" and the country's pre-eminent commercial center in the Western Province. The delegation also visited the King Abdulaziz Historical Center, the Alwaleed Bin Talal Foundation, the King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue, the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, the Prince Sultan Center for Science and Technology, the Khadija Bint Khuwalid Center, Old Jeddah, and the Nafisa Shams Academy for Arts & Crafts. They also had the extraordinary opportunity to visit practically all of the Kingdom's most prominent institutions of higher education. Included were: King Saud University, Yamamah University, King Fahad University of Petroleum and Minerals, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Queen Effat University, and King Abdulaziz University. The study visit throughout enabled the students to meet Saudi Arabians from all ages and walks of life.

The National Council's Model Arab League Student Leaders Visit Qatar

The National Council, in partnership with the Embassy of Qatar in Washington, DC, organized and escorted a delegation of ten American students and five university faculty members, all selected from the Council's Model Arab League program, on a study visit to Qatar from November 28 to December 5, 2014. The visit provided the students and faculty an opportunity to explore the dynamics of some of the major economic, political, and social determinants of Qatar's culture as well as numerous features pertaining to the country's rapid and diverse modernization and development.

The delegation was escorted by Council Founding President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony, author for the past 12 years of the annual essay on Qatar for *Encyclopedia Britannica*, and Council staff members Josh Hilbrand and Nabil Sharaf. As with the Council's study visit to Saudi Arabia (see page 9), the students all have a minimum of two semesters remaining before completion of their undergraduate degree. This ensured that they would have **a full year to share what they learned in and about Qatar** with their classmates, professors, and, most especially, members of their respective communities' civic, business, and professional associations.

The delegation visited Qatar's Aljazeera Media Network, Aspire Zone (also known as Doha Sports City), Mada (Qatar Assistive Technology Center), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Information and Communications Technology, National Human Rights Committee, Qatar Foundation, Qatar International Academy for Security Studies, Ras Laffan Industrial City, and the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy. They also explored the Museum of Islamic Art, Souq Wagif, Katara Cultural Village, and attended a Qatar National Night celebration hosted by Northwestern University–Qatar. At the latter event, the female and male students and faculty alike learned how to hold falcons, regarding which Arabs for centuries have had no peers in their skills at training these birds of prey for hunting in the desert. The female participants opted to be hennaed – as women at marriage and other festivals are often wont to do: have their hands, wrists, and forearms painted in varied Arabesque designs with a nonpermanent orange-brown vegetable dye.



The Model Arab League delegation learns about Education City, an initiative of the Qatar Foundation that hosts branch campuses of some of America's and other countries' leading universities as well as other educational and research centers.



The 15 study visit participants – 10 students and 5 faculty members – were selected on the basis of their outstanding performance in the National Council's University Model Arab League Student Leadership Development Program.



National Council President and Delegation Scholar-Escort Dr. John Duke Anthony (left) poses a question during a delegation briefing at the Al-Jazeera Network, one of the world's largest media companies.



The delegation attended a National Night celebration hosted by Northwestern University - Qatar, whose branch campus in Education City offers degree programs in journalism and communication.

Annual University Student Washington, DC Internship Program

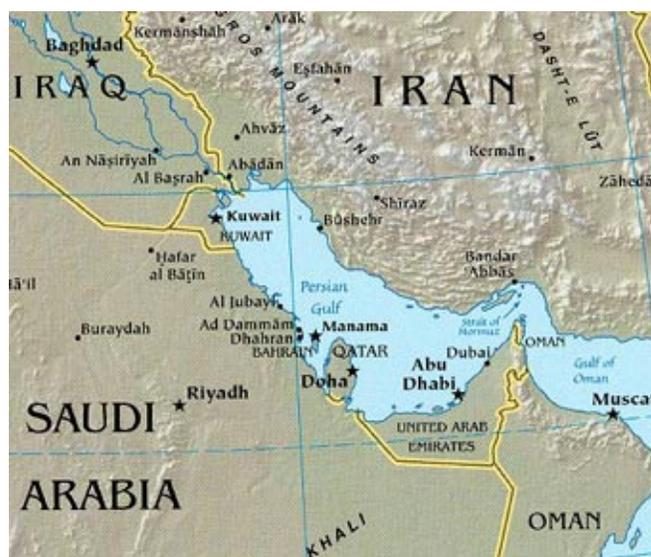
June 2 - August 8, 2014

The National Council's Model Arab League/Arab-U.S. Relations Youth Leadership Development Program, highlighted recently in *Council Chronicle* Vol. 8, No. 2, has been linked for many years to the Council's **Annual University Student Washington, DC Summer Internship Program**. The Summer Intern Program's participants are alumni of the Models and other rising young American and Arab leaders of tomorrow. U.S. Ambassador (Ret.) Edward Gnehm made it possible for the 2014 program to be administered again in association with The George Washington University's (GWU) Institute for Middle East Studies in the Elliott School of International Affairs. Ambassador Gnehm is a member of the GWU faculty where he is the Kuwait Professor of Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Affairs. As in previous years, the 2014 Internship Program provided fertile training ground and an invaluable firsthand professional work experience for young American leaders interested in a career devoted to improving U.S.-Arab relations.



The program, which lasted from June 2 to August 8, provided 25 students an opportunity to work in the nation's capital at one of 18 international affairs organizations. All 18 organizations have for years worked hand-in-hand with the National Council to administer this unique program – the only one of its kind to be found anywhere. Each is involved in one way or another in efforts to improve Arab-U.S. relations. A distinguishing feature of the program is that by its very nature it could not possibly be duplicated or paralleled by the students' university studies on campus. A further hallmark of the experience – one not known to be matched by any U.S.-Arab relations student internship program elsewhere – is that, in addition to working full time in their host organizations, the interns met and were briefed as well as mentored several times a week by some of America's most renowned specialists in international relations as they pertain to the Arab world.

By design, the primary focus of the academic component of the program is also unique: it centers on a sub-region of the Arab countries, the Middle East, and the Islamic world, namely *Arabia and the Gulf*. The reason relates to three truisms. Each one has implications for American and other countries' needs, concerns, interests, relations, and key foreign policy objectives. **First**, this particular region, together with its maritime and aviation routes, has long been regarded globally as the epicenter of the most strategically and economically vital energy resources that drive the engines of the world's economies.



As these maps illustrate, the academic focus of the internship program is on Arabia and the Gulf which, despite being of vital strategic and economic importance globally, remains little known and poorly understood by most Americans and many others.



National Council Internship Program participants visited The Islamic Center of Washington, a mosque and Islamic cultural center on Embassy Row, where they met with and were briefed by the local Imam.



Council Internship Program participants visited the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia to meet with and be briefed by Mr. Nail Al-Jubeir, Director of the Embassy's Information Office.

Second, Arabia and the Gulf remain front and center among some of the most pressing international issues relating to war and peace as well as world economic growth. Indeed, it is the one part of the planet more than any other to which, on three separate occasions, hundreds of thousands of U.S. annual forces personnel and other foreign militaries have been mobilized and deployed in the past three decades.

Third, the ongoing importance to much of humankind represented by these nine countries – Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen – is undeniable. Despite this, the number of Americans who specialize in this sub-region and its member states – or who can legitimately claim to be well-informed about the external and internal political dynamics of these countries – remains exceptionally limited.

In no way can this situation be considered healthy. Neither is it reflective of what is necessary in terms of conserving and sustaining the area's security, stability, and prospects for prosperity. Nor is it representative of what needs to be in place if the United States expects to be able to hold its own, let alone be regarded by others, as a responsible actor with regard to this particular region's affairs, Americas relationships with its people, and the legitimate interests of those who live and work in the countries concerned.

Accordingly, one of the program's educational objectives is to increase the number of foreign affairs practitioners who are as knowledgeable of Arabia and the Gulf's internal and external dynamics as possible. To that end, most of the lectures and discussion sessions address issues related, on one hand, to the dynamics of the member-states' systems of governance, political realities, economic and social development, and their foreign relations, and, on the other, American relations with this Arab sub-region and its neighbors – and *vice versa*.



Internship program participants' experience is one that could not be duplicated or paralleled by the students' university studies on campus.



The interns visited the U.S. Department of State during one of their weekly excursions that allowed them to explore some of America's most important government institutions.



National Council President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony addressed the interns on eight occasions -- in this one on the topic of "Understanding the Arab World: Lenses Through Which to Look and Learn."

Internship Program alumni currently serve as senior diplomats in American embassies in the Arab world and elsewhere, in U.S. government Executive Branch agencies as well as Congressional Committees dealing with U.S.-Arab policy issues, major national and international print as well as broadcast media, leading American corporations engaged in U.S.-Arab trade, investment, technology cooperation, and the establishment of joint commercial ventures, and as teachers of Arabic and Arab area studies in American universities.

The Arab-U.S. relations programs, activities, and functions represented by the 18 organizations and corporations that provided the professional work experience component of the past year's program are varied. Included among their missions and activities are U.S.-Arab educational development and exchanges, bimonthly and quarterly publications, humanitarian relief services, public broadcasting, academic area studies, international transportation, foreign trade, and peace and justice advocacy. An additional feature of the Internship Program is site visits to public and private sector institutions such as Arab embassies, energy corporations, Congressional Committees, and government agencies.



Internship program participants visited the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and received a briefing from Committee staff members.



National Council Internship Program participants joined other students working and studying in Washington, DC in a one-day Summer Model Arab League at Georgetown University.

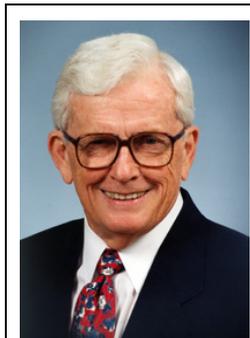
Administering the 2014 program were National Council President **Dr. John Duke Anthony** as Chairman and lead lecturer/resource specialist; Director of Student Programs **Megan Geissler** as Coordinator; and additional support from staff members Josh Hilbrand, Laura Tucker, and Kaylee Boalt as Assistants. Also included among the many briefers and specialists were **His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Alhussaini Alsharif**, Ambassador of the League of Arab States to the United States; **Mr. Bill Corcoran**, President, American Near East Refugee Aid; **Dr. Amal Amireh**, Associate Professor, George Mason University; **Mr. Joseph Montville**, Director, Program on Healing Historical Memory at the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University; **The Honorable Molly Williamson**, former Senior Foreign Policy Adviser to the Secretary of Energy, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, and Distinguished Scholar-In-Residence at the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations as well as the Middle East Institute; **Major Jason Howk**, U.S. Army and National Council Malone Fellow in Arab and Islamic Studies and former Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General; **Dr. Judith Yaphe**, Senior Research Fellow and Middle East Project Director, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University and former Senior Analyst on Near East-Persian Gulf issues, Directorate of Intelligence, CIA; **Ms. Michelle Upton**, Vice President and Managing Editor, *Al-Monitor*; **Bassel Korkor, Esq.**, Legal Director for the United Nations and United Nations Missions of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces; **Mr. Nail Al-Jubeir**, Director, Information Office, Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia; **Professor David Des Roches**, Associate Professor and Senior Military Fellow, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University and National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations Malone Fellow in Arab and Islamic Studies in Syria; **Ambassador (Ret.) Patrick Theros**, President and Executive Director, US-Qatar Business Council; **Ms. Laurna Strikwerda**, twice Program Officer, Freedom House; **Ambassador (Ret.) Walter Cutler**, former United States Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Iran (*Ambassador-designate*), and Congo/Zaire; **Mr. John Pratt**, External Vice President, American Business Association - Eastern Province, Member of the National Council's Board of Directors, and Immediate Past President, Middle East Council of American Chambers of Commerce; and **Dr. Trita Parsi**, President, National Iranian American Council.

Findley Fellowship Program

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations launched its **Findley Fellowship Program** in 2014. The Findley Fellowship, named in honor of Congressman (Ret.) Paul Findley, is annually awarded to one or more participants in the Council's Annual University Student Summer Internship Program. Recipients are those interns who have excelled in manifesting exceptional leadership qualities over the course of the Council's yearly ten-week summer seminar on "Arabia and the Gulf" administered at the George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs situated in the heart of the nation's capital and but a three minute walk to the U.S. Department of State and the headquarters of the offices of Diplomatic and Consular Officers Retired (DACOR).

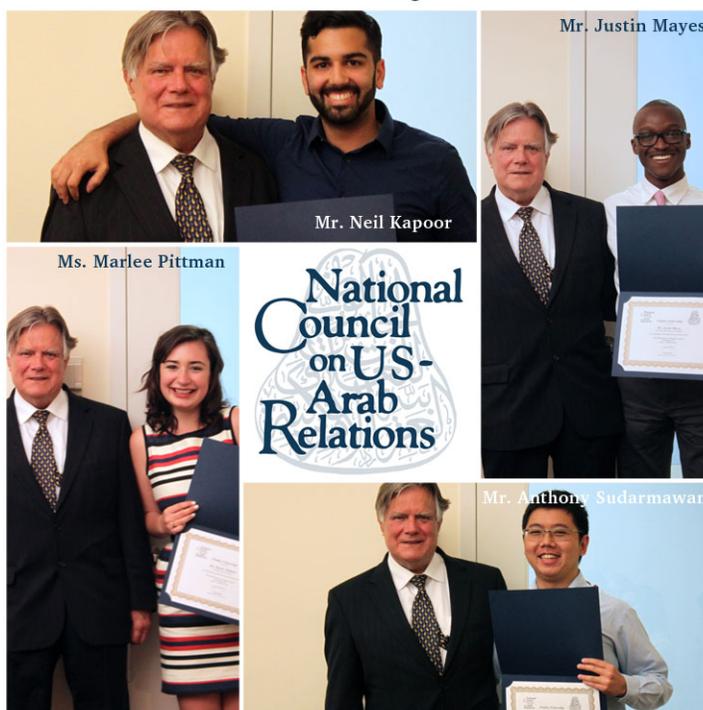
Recipients of the Award are deemed to have demonstrated extraordinary:

- Initiative, leadership, and judgment skills in the program's seminars;
- High-caliber critical thinking in the quality of their seminar exchanges;
- Information integration and analysis as well as oral and written communication skills;
- Original and incisive commentary in their analyses of topics assigned them for required reading and evaluation about the member-countries constituting "Arabia, The Gulf, and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)";
- The nature and degree of excellence exhibited in the interns' preparation for meetings and interaction with the seminar's lecturers, resource specialists, and internationally renowned foreign affairs practitioners on a variety of cutting edge issues and challenges as well as opportunities pertaining to the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf countries. The seminar focuses on Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen, as well as the United States, other Great Powers, the Gulf Cooperation Council, other international organizations and an additional array of forces, factors, and other phenomena related to the position and roles of these countries and their peoples in regional and global affairs. Among the topics included are: intra-Arabia and intra-Gulf elites, interest groups, and the national development processes; the intra-regional and international relations, as well as the cultural, developmental, economic, governmental, historical, political, and societal dynamics of Arabia and the Gulf's countries; and the foreign relations of these nine countries with one another as well as the United States, other Great Powers, and key international organizations.



Congressman (Ret.) Paul Findley is a founding Member and Current Co-Chairman of the Advisory Board of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations.

2014 Findley Fellows



In addition to the honor the title bears and a lapel pin that identifies fellowship recipients, Findley Fellows are invited to speak at the National Council's Annual Policymakers Conference. They are also afforded priority consideration for inclusion in the Council's Arabic language and study-abroad opportunities that the Council co-administers in association with sister organizations in the United States and the Arab world.

National Council's Malone Fellowship in Arab and Islamic Studies Program Annual Cultural Immersion Visit to Oman

In February, a delegation of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) officers, National Council Malone Fellows in Arab and Islamic Studies, and other American foreign affairs specialists participated in the Council's *18th Annual Cultural Immersion Program in Oman*. The delegation was led by Malone Fellow Professor Linda Pappas Funsch, Council Board Member David Bosch and Leslie Bosch, long-time residents of and authorities on the culture of Oman, and staff member Josh Hilbrand.

Since its inception in 1996, this particular National Council program has been and remains one of a kind. Many of the Council's programs in other Arab countries examine policymaking issues and topics related to economic and social development. The Council's programs in Oman for the past 18 years, however, have been and remain different. They are designed to provide hard-to-come-by information and empirical insight into not just these kinds of issues but also, and especially, Oman's cultural and anthropological themes.

The program unfolds primarily in *half a dozen different regions outside the Sultanate's capital of Muscat*. It does so in order to allow delegation members to experience the dynamics of what is not only one of the Arab world's most demographically, geographically, economically, and socially diverse countries. It does so also because of Oman's position adjacent to the Hormuz Strait, arguably the most strategically vital waterway on earth, through which one fifth of the world's globally traded oil transits daily. The program provides context, background, and perspective related to a broad range of dynamics that influence Oman's national development processes as well as its domestic priorities, international relations, and foreign policy objectives.

Before their departure for Oman, the Fellows participated in a two-day orientation program. Featured were (1) National Council Founding President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony; (2) Ambassador Richard Schmierer, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Diplomacy, Bureau of Near East Affairs, U.S. Department of State, and former U.S. Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman; (3) The Honorable Molly Williamson, Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, former Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Defense, former Acting Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of State, and former Senior Foreign Policy Advisor at the U.S. Department of Energy; (4) Mr. Robert Dry, Adjunct Professor, New York University, and former Chargé d'Affaires and Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy in Muscat; (5) Colonel Andrea Tullos, Chief of the Arabian Peninsula and Iraq Division in the Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate (J-5) on the Joint Staff; (6) Mr. Richard W. Jackson, Staff Member in the Arabian Peninsula and Iraq Division in the Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate (J-5) on the Joint Staff of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, U.S. Department of Defense; and (7) Professor David Des Roches, Associate Professor and Senior Military Fellow, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University, U.S. Department of Defense.



The National Council Malone Fellow delegation meets with H.E. Abdul Aziz bin Mohammed al Rowas, His Majesty the Sultan's Advisor for Cultural Affairs.



One of Oman's many inland fortresses and traditional walled settlements, Bahla, presently under restoration, has been designated by the United Nations as a World Heritage Site.



Upon arrival in Oman, the delegation members participated in meetings and briefings by officials at the U.S. Embassy and Omani government ministries. They visited Bayt Al-Zubair, one of Oman's world class cultural and historical museums in Muttrah, the commercial center of the capital territory. In addition, the Fellows spent time along the country's coasts, crisscrossing its numerous mountains and wadis, and camping out under a moonlit and star-strewn sky in a desert outpost deep in Oman's vast Sharqiyah Sands, where they were hosted by members of the Al-Harthy, the region's most prominent tribe.

Further into the interior, the Fellows visited remote villages, hilltop hamlets, and little known farm sites tucked beneath groves of trees clinging to hillsides. In so doing, the participants were able to observe the country's fisher folk, boat builders, weavers, potters, the faithful at prayer, women at work and at leisure, and school children at study and at play.

The Fellows also visited Salalah, the second largest city in Oman, capital of the Dhofar Province, and birthplace of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said. In addition, in Jabrin, Nizwa, and Qabil, the Fellows made their way on foot through the architectural mazes and defense mechanisms of three of the country's more than 400 centuries-old forts.

Through mountains, deserts, wadis, and sea, the experience unfolded along the shores and inland reaches of the Indian Ocean, the Gulf of Oman, the Arabian Sea, and other storied places. All this transpired alongside an extraordinary Omani guide who personified Oman's long history of residence and interaction within Arabia and the Gulf as well as Central and East Africa.

The National Council's Malone Fellow delegation explored half a dozen regions in the Sultanate's interior outside the capital of Muscat. In doing so, they experienced firsthand the dynamics of one of the Arab world's most demographically, geographically, economically, and socially diverse countries.



A view of the centuries-old fort adjacent to the Grand Mosque in Nizwa, an historical center of scholarly learning and traditional education that has long been closely linked to Ibadhi Muslim communities in Algeria, Libya, East Africa, and elsewhere.



Malone Fellows explored the vibrant market in Sinaw, in the eastern region of Oman where they were able to walk among and commune with men and women in their traditional dress, peruse the locally produced handicrafts in gold and silver, and observe the brisk sales in fish, goats, and household wares.



The Fellows visited Jabrin Castle, built in the 17th Century when Oman's capital moved there from Nizwa.



An exterior view of the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque in Oman's Capital Territory.



Fifteenth century Fort Mirani in Muscat.



Malone Fellows explored the dunes of the Sharqiyyah Sands, an eastern extension of the Rub' Al-Khali (The Empty Quarter), the world's largest desert.



The waterfront of Muscat, capital of Oman and one of Arabia's most historically fabled ports.

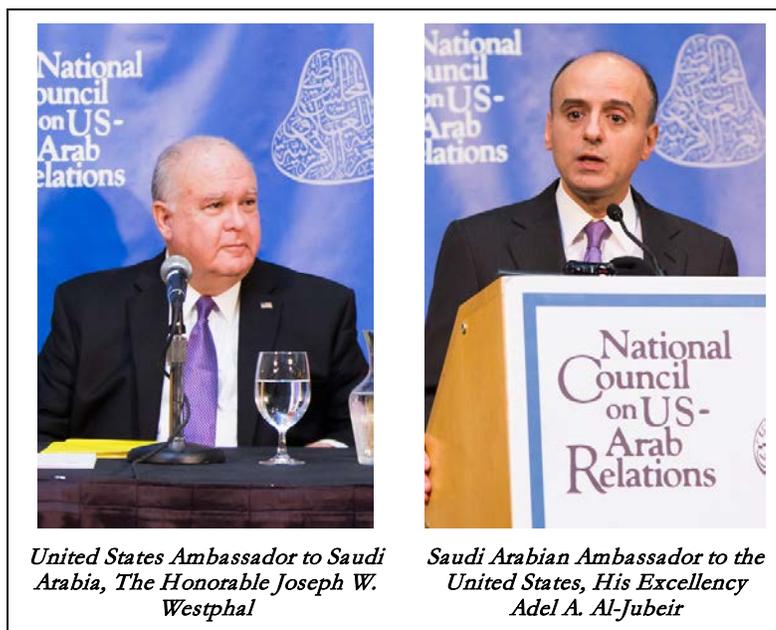
23rd Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference

"Framing and Charting the Region's Issues, Interests, Challenges, and Opportunities: Implications for Arab and U.S. Policies"

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' 23rd Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference, chaired by its Founding President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony, was held October 28-29, 2014, at the Ronald Regan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC. For the fourth consecutive year the conference registered *more than 1,200 attendees*. The theme of the 2014 conference was **"Framing and Charting the Region's Issues, Interests, Challenges, and Opportunities: Implications for Arab and U.S. Policies,"** and it featured more than fifty speakers who analyzed, discussed, and debated issues of over-arching importance to the American and Arab people's needs, concerns, interests, and key foreign policy objectives.

Speakers included current and former ambassadors from the United States and various Arab countries, key U.S. government officials, and scholars and representatives of non-governmental organizations and public policy research institutes. Over two-days, conference sessions explored various dynamics of the United States relationship with the Arab world, including energy and defense cooperation, business relations, and geo-political implications of developments in Syria, Iraq, Iran, the Arabian Gulf, Egypt and North Africa, and Palestine.

His Royal Highness Prince Turki Al Faisal delivered a keynote address on the first day of the conference that surveyed the challenges facing the Arab world, reflected on critical missed strategic opportunities, and affirmed Saudi Arabia's commitment to fighting terrorism. The second day of the conference featured keynote addresses from Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to the United States, **His Excellency Adel A. Al-Jubeir**, and the United States Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, **Joseph W. Westphal**, who both examined the strength, length, and depth of the Saudi Arabian-United States relationship.



United States Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, The Honorable Joseph W. Westphal

Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Adel A. Al-Jubeir

The National Council also bestowed awards on two prominent leaders: a *"Distinguished Global Leadership Award"* was presented to **His Excellency Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Attiyah** in recognition of his long and illustrious service to the State of Qatar as well as his contributions to humanity, and a *"Global Humanitarian and Business Achievement Award"* was presented to **Dr. Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor** (accepted on his behalf by former Congressman Paul Findley) for his leadership in education, philanthropy, and building bridges between East and West.

The keynote speakers were supplemented by sessions on issues such as U.S.-Arab energy cooperation; the Gulf Cooperation Council; defense cooperation; trade, investment, commerce, and joint business relations; and regional geo-political dynamics.

Throughout the Conference, the American Educational Trust, publisher of the award-winning *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*, sold books and Palestinian crafts.

The 23rd Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference was a resounding success, providing the American and Arab public -- whether in attendance, following the proceedings online, or reading about the conference through media coverage -- with a wide-ranging look at Arab-U.S. relations. In keeping with their inception in 1991, the Conference comprised speakers with challenging and controversial views. Throughout the two-days of shared ideas, intense discussions and debate, and extensive networking among attendees and participants, the Conference not only furthered the Council's educational mission of enhancing American awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the Arab and Islamic worlds. It also provided much food for thought in the form of practical suggestions and recommendations for ways to improve the overall Arab-U.S. relationship.

The Conference's entire transcripts, together with its video- and audio-recorded proceedings, are available via the Council's website at ncusar.org.

Read, Watch, or Listen to the 2014 Policymakers Conference Proceedings



Transcripts, MP3 audio, and links to video recordings are available on the National Council's website, ncusar.org, at:

<http://ncusar.org/auspc/2014>



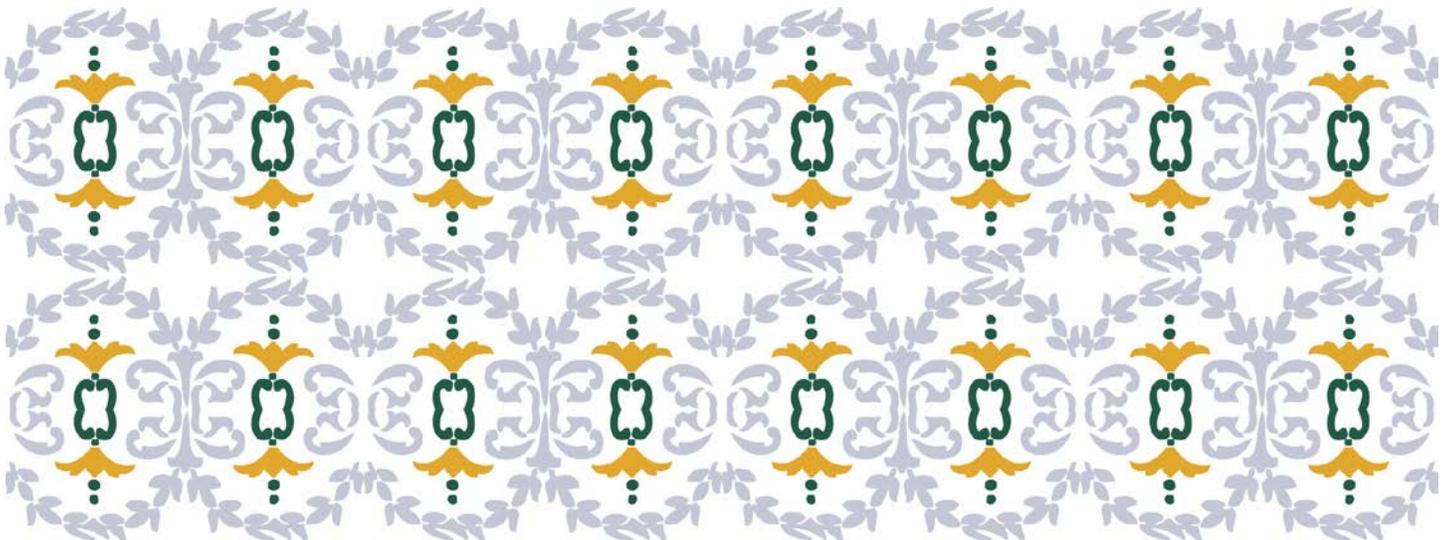
MP3 audio podcasts of the conference are available through iTunes:

<http://bit.ly/itunes-ncusar>



Video of Conference sessions is available on YouTube, along with video from previous years' Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conferences and other Council programs:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/NCUSAR>



2014 Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference Sponsors



National Council Public Affairs Briefings

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations periodically sponsors public educational programs on Capitol Hill and around Washington, DC where an assemblage of domestic and internationally renowned specialists analyze, discuss, and debate issues of importance to the relationship between the U.S. and the Arab countries, the Middle East, and the Islamic world. These events examine how best to strengthen and expand mutual Arab-U.S. trust, confidence, and benefits while examining a range of complex issues, interests, and policies.

“Dynamics of U.S.-GCC Defense Cooperation”

February 13, 2014

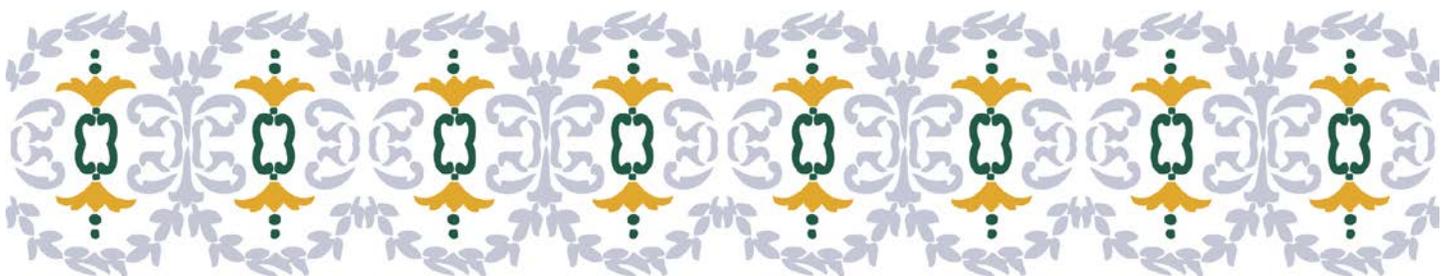
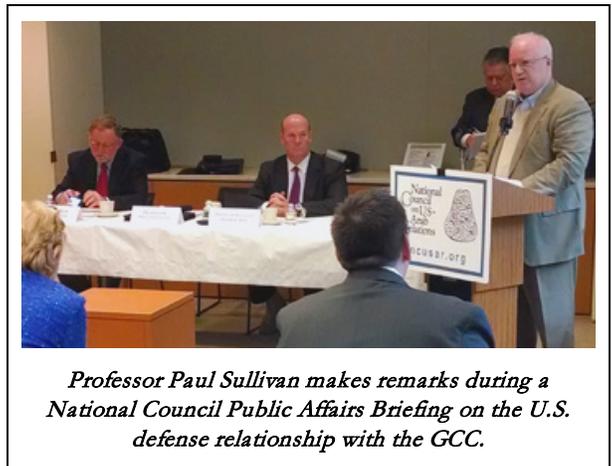


On February 13, 2014, the National Council and the U.S.-GCC Corporate Cooperation Committee hosted a public affairs briefing on **“Dynamics of U.S.-GCC Defense Cooperation”** at Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP’s Washington, DC office. Council President and CEO Dr. Anthony served as primary facilitator and moderator. In his opening remarks, he highlighted the extraordinarily unique circumstance that were in play at the time of the GCC’s establishment and how its member-countries have weathered three wars and numerous challenges while becoming the most successful example of interstate cooperation in modern Arab history.

Participating specialists were: (1)

Ambassador (Ret.) James Smith, former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia (2009-2013) and Senior Counselor, The Cohen Group; (2) Professor David Des Roches, Senior Military Fellow, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University, U.S. Department of Defense, and Council Malone Fellow in Arab and Islamic Studies to Syria; and (3) Professor Paul Sullivan, Professor of Economics, National Defense University and Adjunct Professor in National Security Studies, Georgetown University.

An audio recording of the program is available on the National Council’s website ncusar.org and through [iTunes](#). In addition, a KSA2 (Saudi Arabian English television) report on the program is available on the Council’s website ncusar.org and [YouTube](#).



“Tunisia: The Way Forward”

February 19, 2014

On February 19, 2014, the National Council and The Maghreb Center organized a program to assess the latest developments in Tunisia. The purpose was to examine and analyze the country’s economic challenges as it moves forward on the path of democratization and political stability. It was also to discuss and assess U.S.-Tunisia relations in the areas of trade and economic development. The event was held at The Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington, DC. Council President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony, in his welcoming remarks, underscored Tunisia’s unparalleled record of accomplishments in the fields of women’s, trade union, and civil rights in addition to its achievements in sustaining popular participation in the Country’s national development process. Dr. Néjib Ayachi, Founding President of The Maghreb Center, served as moderator. The keynote speaker was H.E. M’Hamed Ezzine Chelaifa, Tunisian Ambassador to the United States. Additional specialists included Mr. Andrew Haviland, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs’ International Finance and Development Unit at the U.S. Department of State, and Dr. Caroline Freund, Senior Fellow at The Peterson Institute for International Economics and former World Bank Chief Economist for the Middle East and North Africa.



Dr. John Duke Anthony opens the National Council’s and The Maghreb Center’s program assessing the latest developments in Tunisia.

An audio and video recording of the program is available on the National Council's website ncusar.org as well as through [iTunes](#) (for the audio recording) and [YouTube](#) (for the video recording).

“Qatar – Understood and Misunderstood”

April 1, 2014

On April 1, 2014, the National Council hosted a public affairs briefing on **“Qatar – Understood and Misunderstood: A Conversation with H.E. Mohammed Jaham Al Kuwari, Qatar Ambassador to the United States.”** The program was held in the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill. Council Founding President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony served as primary facilitator and moderator, along with Council Executive Vice President Patrick Mancino. In his welcoming comments, Dr. Anthony pointed out that Qatar hosts the forward-deployed headquarters of the U.S. Central Command; introduced a revolutionary transformation in the scope, focus, and global reach at Arab journalism and mass communication through its pioneering satellite television network Aljazeera; is the host to half a dozen prominent American universities’ four-year academic campuses; and is the world’s largest producer of gas-to-liquids fuels. Ambassador Al Kuwari delivered remarks and then fielded questions from the audience for *ninety minutes*. The discussion, questions, and answers pulled no punches. They explored the dynamics of change and constancy within Qatar's government and the country's economic and political dynamics, foreign policies, and relations with its neighbors and beyond.



With National Council President Dr. Anthony presiding, H.E. Mohammed Jaham Al Kuwari, Ambassador of Qatar to the United States, speaks at a Council Public Affairs Briefing on Capitol Hill.

An audio and video recording of the program is available on the National Council's website ncusar.org as well as through [iTunes](#) (for the audio recording) and [YouTube](#) (for the video recording).

“Iraq Update – Challenges and Opportunities”

May 9, 2014

On May 9, 2014, the National Council hosted a public affairs briefing **“Iraq Update – Challenges and Opportunities: A Conversation with His Excellency Lukman Faily, Ambassador of Iraq to the United States.”** The program was co-hosted by and held at Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP’s Washington, DC office. Dr. John Duke Anthony, Council President and CEO, served as primary facilitator and moderator. In his welcoming remarks, Dr. Anthony framed the humanitarian



H.E. Lukman Faily, Ambassador of Iraq to the United States, speaks at a National Council Public Affairs Briefing in Washington, DC.

component of the effects following the American led invasion and occupation of Iraq in 2003 by stating that the nearly four million Iraqi external refugees and internally displaced Iraqis, in terms of an American equivalency, equated to more than 50 million inhabitants of the United States. He also offered for consideration the view of many in the GCC region and elsewhere that another perceived result of the conflict that ensued, and has yet to be resolved, is that, “American attacked Iraq and Iran men without firing a single bullet or losing a drop of blood” – the reference being to Iran, as a result, having the friendliest government in Baghdad in modern history.

H.E. Ambassador Faily delivered remarks and then fielded questions from the audience for more than an hour. The program explored

current dynamics in Iraq, the country’s continued uncertain security situation, prospects for international investment to repair and develop Iraq’s infrastructure, and perspectives on the priorities of the Iraqi people’s needs and concerns.

An audio and video recording of the program is available on the National Council's website ncusar.org as well as through [iTunes](#) (for the audio recording) and [YouTube](#) (for the video recording).

“Dynamics of Regional Crises Run Amok: Implications for Arab and U.S. Interests and Policies”

August 20, 2014



On August 20, 2014, the National Council and the U.S.-GCC Corporate Cooperation Committee hosted a public affairs briefing on **“Dynamics of Regional Crises Run Amok: Implications for Arab and U.S. Interests and Policies”** at Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP’s Washington, DC office. Council President and CEO Dr. Anthony served as primary facilitator and moderator.

Participating specialists were: (1) Ambassador Samir Sumaida'ie, Former Ambassador of Iraq to the United States (2006-2011) and Former Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations (2004-2006); (2) Professor

David Des Roches, Senior Military Fellow, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University, and Malone Fellow in Arab and Islamic Studies to Syria; (3) Dr. Imad Harb, Distinguished International Affairs Fellow, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations; (4) Dr. Thomas Mattair, Executive Director, Middle East Policy Council; (5) Mr. Matthew A. Reynolds, North America Representative, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); and (6) Mr. Joshua Yaphe, Arabian Peninsula Analyst, U.S. Department of State Bureau of Intelligence and Research.



National Council Public Affairs Briefing examining the implications of ongoing regional crises.

An audio and video recording of the program is available on the National Council's website ncusar.org as well as through [iTunes](#) (for the audio recording) and [YouTube](#) (for the video recording).

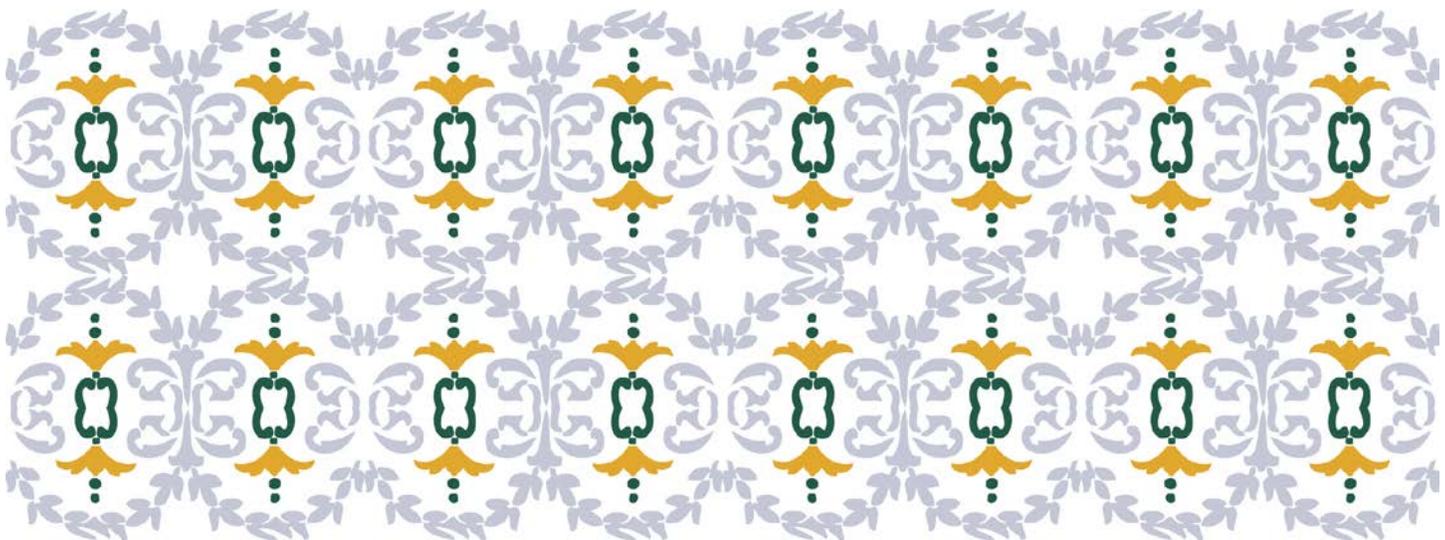
National Council Recognized for Outstanding Performance, Fiscal Management, & Transparency

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations received highly coveted awards and recognition in recent months by several of America’s most prominent charitable giving rating organizations.

First, it was again awarded a **Four Star Rating** – the highest possible rating – by **Charity Navigator (CN)**, America's premier independent charity evaluator. CN helps charitable contributors make intelligent giving decisions by providing in-depth, objective ratings and analysis of the financial health and standing of America's largest charities. In earning CN's highest rating, the Council was deemed to have demonstrated exceptional financial health, outperforming most of its peers in the world of nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations regarding the management and growth of its finances in the most fiscally responsible manner possible.



Additionally, the National Council was again approved for membership in the Better Business Bureau (**BBB**)’s **Wise Giving Alliance**, thereby demonstrating that the Council meets all 20 of the BBB's Standards for Charity Accountability. The BBB's organizational evaluation involves rigorous scrutiny of governance, effectiveness, finances and solicitations, and informational materials. The overarching principle of the BBB Wise Giving Alliance Standards for Charity Accountability is full disclosure to donors and potential donors at the time of solicitation and thereafter.



Financial Summary

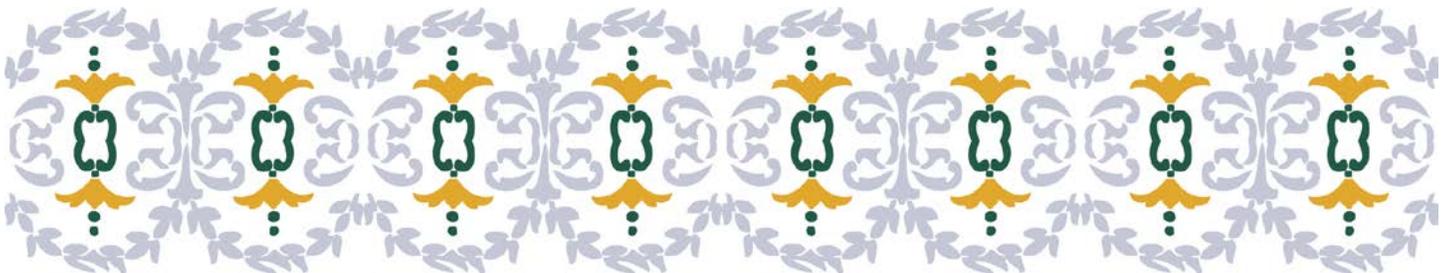
Data is for the most recent year available - Fiscal Year Ending 08 / 31 / 2014

Revenue

Primary Revenue	\$1,307,055
Other Revenue	\$6,520
Total Revenue	\$1,313,575

Expenses

Program Expenses	\$1,199,868
Model Arab League - \$321,985	
Malone Fellowship Program - \$113,439	
Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference - \$412,493	
Summer Intern Program - \$254,444	
Congressional Briefings - \$97,507	
Administrative Expenses	\$175,798
Fundraising Expenses	\$51,694
Total Functional Expenses	\$1,427,360
Excess for the fiscal year	\$(128,099)
End of Fiscal Year Net Assets	\$2,269,394





What will your legacy be?

Accomplishing the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' educational, training, and leadership development mission cannot be achieved by accident or coincidence. It can be realized only through a steady stream of resources from individuals and families that have benefited from the Council's educational programs, projects, events, and activities, and benefactors who believe in what the Council seeks to accomplish.

Investment in the National Council – at any level and at any point in one's life – will make a difference for generations to come.

Contributing to the National Council is a powerful and meaningful way for one to strengthen the Council's philanthropic legacy. Inclusion of the Council in one's will is a guaranteed means of bequeathing resources to ensure a lasting impact on the Arab-U.S. relationship for far into the future.

For more information about your personal legacy promoting the Arab-U.S. relationship, please contact:

Mr. Pat Mancino, Executive Vice President
 Telephone: 202-293-6466
 Email: pat@ncusar.org

National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations
 1730 M St NW, Suite 503
 Washington, DC 20036

Suggested Bequest Language:

I bequeath _____ percent of my residuary estate (or \$ _____) to the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, a not-for-profit organization, with its office at 1730 M St NW, Suite 503, Washington, DC 20036, for its ongoing educational programs (or name a specific National Council program, e.g., the Model Arab League, Malone Fellowship, Summer Internship Program, or Findley Fellowship). Tax ID # 52-1296502.



National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations
 1730 M St NW, Suite 503, Washington, DC
 Telephone: (202) 293-6466
 ncusar.org

National Council Leadership & Staff

Founding President & Chief Executive Officer

Dr. John Duke Anthony; see below.

National Council Management and Staff

Founding President and Chief Executive Officer -- Dr. John Duke Anthony; see below;

Executive Vice President and Director of Development -- Mr. Patrick A. Mancino; also: former Assistant to the President and Director of Development, American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; and former Legislative Assistant, House of Representatives, United States Congress;

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Director of Communications -- Mr. Mark Morozink; also: Alumnus and former Coordinator, Model Arab League Program;

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