

# Our Newsletter

## American Undergraduate Educational Experience has Many Benefits

The three central principles of the American college/university experience, as written about by Andrew Delbanco, and I quote, "The first, deeply ingrained in our culture, that people should not be constrained by the circumstances of their birth, but should have the chance to discover their passions and pursue them as far as their talents allow. Second, the college/university classroom has been a rehearsal space for democracy, where students learn to speak and listen with civility to peers whose perspective on the world differs from their own. And finally, the American educational experience has always been about more than the transmission of information or the inculcation of skills; it has been at its best, about helping young people prepare for lives of meaning and purpose."

LE•O is committed to the principle of the Right to Education. We believe that education elevates the hopes and dreams of individuals and raises the overall well-being of an entire society. We strive to find the brightest minds, often from the most underserved communities and provide them with the opportunity to acquire the professional, crosscultural understanding, and technical knowledge required to enhance their own futures and that of their community.

#### Filling the Funding GAP

LE•O supports two groupings of Palestinian students: LE•O Scholars who receive the lion's share of our scholarship dollars, and LE•O Student Service Recipients (39 in all) who receive guidance, guardianship, soft skills development, and some financial assistance to fill their scholarship "Funding Gap."

It is important for our donors and supporters to understand that while we match the students with college preparation sources, resources, and mentors, the selection for appropriate scholarships, and provide the additional funding between the scholarship and the actual cost; we also must provide funds to cover travel-related expenses, passports, visas, clothing, dorm room set up, books and supplies, emergency funds, and the administrative costs of operating LE·O to ensure that the opportunities for our Scholars and Student Service Recipients become a reality.

#### Meet Maha

Please take a moment to meet Maha in this <u>video</u> in which she explains how transformative her educational opportunity has been for her future.

Maha is a LE•O Student Services Recipient who came to us through our partner, Cogito Scholars, in the U.K.



She is a Palestinian from a camp in Beirut, Lebanon. Cogito sponsored Maha's secondary education in the U.K. Maha is attending Saint Olaf College in Minnesota as a freshman. She has an interest in medicine but has not yet selected her major.

As a LE•O Service Recipient, we have addressed Mahas "Funding Gap," allowing her to be able to attend college. LE•O donors paid for her Visa, SEVIS interview, travel, bedroom set up, warm clothing, and book money. She will also receive continued guidance and the many other services we offer our students for the duration of her education in the U.S.

Watch Maha's Cogito <u>video</u> and learn more about this outstanding young woman.

The demands are great, but the rewards are greater as we meet our mission of service to these bright, deserving, yet underserved Palestinian youth. They are the hope of tomorrow and they will change their world. Together, we can meet the financial demands and support of their undergraduate education in America. Please join us with your donation today.

Please make a gift today to fund one of the expenses on the next page.

Deya' Leonard Dresner Executive Director

Leonard Education Organization

### Click on the buttons below to fund these expenses.

\$200

The Cost of a Passport

\$250

The Cost of Warm Clothing

\$350

The cost of a SEVIS
Interview and Visa

\$350

The Cost to Set Up a Dorm Room

\$600

The Cost of Books per Semester

\$1,000

Emergency Fund for Dental Care and Medical Co-pays

\$1,200

The Cost of Air Travel

\$7,000

Scholarship Gap Funding (for Yazan this year)

\$7,000

The cost to run the LE•O program per Scholar

Visit our website for more information on supporting LE•O:
leonardeducation.org

## Thank you for your support!