

Experience in the Ibrahim Student Leadership & Dialogue Program would establish a sharper dialog between students and the community. Direct experience from the program, added to relationships I have developed among peers and faculty, a new form of outreach can be established. Outreach in Women's Issues, Gay Rights, Religious Education, strengthening international relationships, and developing classes that bring awareness. In order for a new form of outreach between student and community to begin, the community must be invited to get involved.

The program objective of facilitating engagement with organizations and leaders to overcome difference in the Middle East will help start any dialogue between the outside community and the student body. Some other objectives of the program that stood out to me were conflict resolution and remediation. Learning conflict resolution I will be able to facilitate between arguments of religious, philosophical, and cultural debate. Conflict resolution is a delicate task and I like how the program states that it "inspires respectful dialogue as a tool for building mutual understanding". I would like to organize new classes in my department as a way of teaching the issues that affect the Middle East and relate those issues to our own country.

One of the main objectives would be to start with the departments of my school and find ways to relate what is being taught to what is taking place in the Middle East. Furthermore, I want to start arranging to bring in class speakers to discuss issues and actions. Another objective is to have the faculty and departments make participation in a form of community service or social outreach apart of class requirements. We have a class called Religion in the City at NJCU and it is an amazing experience, one where students meet with religious clergy working in an urban community dealing with poverty, crime, and issues in faith. In America, the humanities departments are dying and people's identification of social change, empowerment, and confidence are beginning to lack the knowledge of how these terms are defined and used. The rape victim goes unheard, questioned, and accused, the demands for gay rights are mocked, and the conflicts in the Middle East are reduced to savagery.

I believe this is due to a disconnect with the past and a disconnect with the living conditions around the world. To paraphrase the Director of the Ibrahim Program, Mark Rosenblum, "the greatest weapon of mass destruction is mass ignorance; we need to combat this with mass information." I believe that the conflict resolution currently happening in the Middle East can provide us with much needed information, and we can follow the example of the Middle East in their practice of remediation. Information with the practice of remediation will lead to understanding the difference between hateful and educational communication, which will then lead to truly having knowledge of what we are communicating about.

Anthony Torres