

Throughout my service with the U.S. Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps and my time wrestling as a collegiate athlete, I wholeheartedly embrace the importance of synergy and fostering interpersonal relationships in order for effective cross-functional teams to produce ever-widening results that impact the fabric of our great nation. I intend on utilizing these leadership roles as a principal stepping stone toward growing the Ibrahim Student Leadership & Dialogue Middle East Program, contributing to the awareness of religious plurality and expanding upon the unvarnished truths that will lead to peaceful conflict resolutions in the Arab World. This will be accomplished on my behalf through continued community outreach, relentless devotion to educational advancement and publishing my foreign engagements through academic journals concerning my research work.

I am eager to fully immersing myself into the plethora of public policy discussions, questioning contemporary political philosophies and crafting strategic solutions with the help of others to address cataclysmic events and social injustices that plague the lives of so many innocent lives. Gathering young, bright and driven leaders together to take part in these academic-oriented pursuits is one opportunity I am enthusiastically committed to experiencing.

Therefore, part of my drive is to alleviate the pain and suffering of others through mentorship. My love for helping people acquire their “human excellence” such as (integrity, compassion, honesty, devotion, love and kindness) has provided me with the courage to begin my journey as a motivational speaker.

I’ve counseled countless individuals. My next steps would be to act as an agent-of-change with the support of the Ibrahim Student Leadership & Dialogue Middle East Program and visit regional high schools, colleges and seminars and speak to those whose interweaved messages concerning the Middle East and its current state of affairs were lost in translation.

Many are dealing with similar ordeals which I was subjected to overcoming without guidance. My message promotes acting upon intellectual curiosities, questioning the status quo of conventional wisdom, supporting unencumbered liberty and fighting relentlessly for one’s sense of fulfillment. Most importantly, is allowing those who listen to my message to develop an independent philosophical perspective on life without biased opinions or prejudice assumptions infiltrating their beliefs. Providing others with a sense of contentment in their heart is the ultimate reward and with the Ibrahim Student Leadership & Dialogue Middle East Program, I will be well equipped to confidently set the record straight on the unbalanced perspectives, political meddling and simply biased media interpretations of today’s Middle East conflicts.

In Romans 13:12, God states “We wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, and against spiritual wickedness in high places.” It’s my whole-hearted belief, I am that wrestler and I am well prepared to quarterback the opposition that lies ahead.

Elijah Moses Villapiano