



NATIONAL U.S.-ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

غرفة التجارة الأمريكية العربية الوطنية

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Sixteen PDI Fellows Attend Professional Training Workshop in Washington DC

Now in Its Fourth Year, This Capacity-Building Program is “Going from Strength to Strength”

Washington, D.C. – The [Professional Development Initiative \(PDI\)](#), now in its fourth year, recently hosted 16 Kuwaiti Fellows for a two-day, intensive Leadership Training program in Washington DC. The PDI was inspired and developed by the [Embassy of the State of Kuwait](#), the [Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences \(KFAS\)](#), Kuwait’s [Ministry of Higher Education](#), and the [National U.S. – Arab Chamber of Commerce \(NUSACC\)](#). More than a dozen American companies have participated in the PDI to date, including such U.S. multinationals as Boeing, Dow, GE, Intel, MetLife, and Schlumberger.

For more information about PDI, please visit: www.pdi-nusacc.org.



The PDI training included 16 Kuwaiti Fellows and leaders from NUSACC and KFAS. Front row, from left to right: Ahmad Al Sayed, NUSACC PDI Manager; Rabih Mogharbel, NUSACC VP of Business Development and PDI Director; David Hamod, NUSACC President & CEO; Sarah Al-Abdallah, KFAS Program Officer; Nasreen Al-Abdulghafoor, NME Recruiting Coordinator at Schlumberger; Max Al Qubaisi (standing far right), North America International Recruiter at Schlumberger; Margaret Fisher (standing back row right), Fisher Group Solutions.

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The Fellows were invited to Washington DC from all over the United States to participate in a leadership development course aimed at strengthening their professional skills for the American workforce. The training was attended by the program's partners, including the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, NUSACC, Schlumberger USA, and LocalizED. The program partners launched the training workshop, highlighting the vital role that PDI plays in developing professional potential among Kuwaiti graduates of U.S. universities.

In his opening statement, David Hamod, President & CEO of NUSACC, noted, "This is the largest group of PDI Fellows ever to participate in the training weekend. This capacity-building program is going from strength to strength, and I am very pleased that the caliber of the Fellows – as well as the program partners – gets even better with every passing year."



David Hamod (left), NUSACC President & CEO, with Sarah Al-Abdallah (right), Program Officer at KFAS.

Sarah Al-Abdallah, Program Officer at KFAS, remarked, "At KFAS, we work tirelessly to create training and educational opportunities for individuals in collaboration with world-renowned institutions and companies to achieve our vision of helping Kuwait to build a knowledge-based and sustainable economy rooted in developing science, technology, and innovation. The PDI is one example of what we offer to individuals wanting to blaze their own professional trail and gain experience in the U.S. job market. This one-of-a-kind opportunity opens the door to a lifelong career and gives these Fellows a head start in the job market."

Schlumberger Recruitment



Max Al Qubaisi, North America International Recruiter at Schlumberger.

U.S. host companies employ PDI Fellows for a period of one year, fully immersing them in those firms' corporate cultures. The experience is intended to prepare Fellows for professional advancement and, ultimately, to help them become future business leaders in Kuwait.

The PDI program creates an ongoing pipeline of carefully vetted candidates with degrees in such fields as energy, engineering, finance, information and communications technology, health services, law, management, and the environment. Special attention is given to candidates pursuing STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics).

With this in mind, Schlumberger USA used this year's training weekend as an opportunity to recruit PDI Fellows for 2019. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between NUSACC and Schlumberger with the intention of creating a "pipeline" of Kuwaiti engineers to join one of the world's top oilfield services firms.

Schlumberger is the world's leading provider of technology for reservoir characterization, drilling, production, and processing to the oil and gas industry. Working in more than 85 countries and employing approximately 100,000 people who represent over 140 nationalities, Schlumberger supplies the industry with a comprehensive range of products and services.



Nasreen Al-Abdulghafoor,
NME Recruiting Coordinator at
Schlumberger.

Leadership Training

PDI Leadership Training was led by Margaret Fisher of [Fisher Group Solutions](#), with more than 25 years of “whole brain” thinking. Fisher utilized the Herrmann Brain Dominance Instrument (HBDI) as a way to maximize leadership potential.



Margaret Fisher of Fisher Group
Solutions.

The HBDI is a 120-question survey that results in a profile of the Fellow's preferred thinking styles. Fisher explains, “By understanding your thinking style preferences, you can achieve greater appreciation for how you lead, learn, make decisions, solve problems, and communicate.”

PDI's leadership training helps to prepare the Fellows for the workplace. The HBDI assists with this in three ways:

1. By communicating successfully and incorporating diverse thinking styles.
2. By creating the space for each Fellow to consider important elements of his or her leadership style. By knowing their own preferences, Fellows are able to craft their own development plans.
3. By helping to shape “Mindset,” the invisible force within us that guides our actions and helps to determine how we will interpret and respond to situations. PDI training helps Fellows to identify fixed mindsets and to devise ways to think in a more critical and growth-oriented manner.

Voices of the Fellows

Recent testimonials from some of the PDI Fellows:



- Omar Al Theyab

“Being with Dow is an amazing experience. I am learning how the real world functions and what the challenges are in a professional setting. The company provides me with a wide range of opportunities to learn and expand. Currently, I am working on a variety of projects that are allowing me to apply the knowledge and skills that I've acquired in the past. I strongly recommend that Kuwaiti students take advantage of this journey and gain a lifetime experience with PDI.”

“It has been over three months since I started working as a Design Engineer at Ascent Group. I have been exposed to various structural design projects, from new custom residential houses to remodels and specialized lab equipment. My co-workers have been very welcoming and supportive from the very first day. I could not have chosen a better firm to start my professional career as a structural engineer.”



- AlMeqdad Mohammed



“My experience so far at AECOM has been great! I’m being exposed to the latest in technical excellence and working with visionary clients, colleagues, and mentors in an environment that encourages creativity, supports flexibility, values diversity, and embraces the new and the ground-breaking. In the field of intelligent transportation systems, we’re tackling challenges which ensure that the future of mobility is safer, cleaner, cheaper, faster and more convenient than it is today. The help, training, and guidance provided by the Professional Development Initiative enabled me to maximize the OPT opportunity, and I look forward to returning back home to Kuwait to implement and apply the knowledge I’ve acquired abroad.”

- Yousef Al Sharif

The Class of 2019 PDI Spring Fellows



Abdulaziz Boalbanat

Bachelor of Science in
Electrical and Electronics
Engineering

Temple University



Abdulla A. Alhasan

Industrial and Systems
Engineering

University of Miami



Abdulwahab AlHaji

Master of Science in
Electrical and Computer
Engineering

University of Rochester,
NY



Ahmed H. AlKhaled

Bachelors of Science in
Civil Engineering

Arizona State University



Ahmed Shehab

Master of Science in
Mechanical Engineering

University of Southern
California (USC)



Ali Bader Almulla

Master of Arts in
International Affairs

The George Washington
University



Fatmah Alnejada

Master of Arts
in Diplomacy &
International Relations

Seton Hall University,
South Orange, NJ



Hussain AlSahhaf

Bachelor of Science in
Electrical Engineering

University of Southern
California (USC)



Malak Abdullah

B.S. Mechanical
Engineering

University of Southern
California (USC)



Mohammad Alsaad

Bachelor of Science in
Computer Science

University of Montana



Naser Almutairi

Mechanical Engineering
Master's Degree
University of Michigan



Raiya H. AlSumait

Bachelor of Science in
Corporate Finance and
Accounting Minor in
Management.
Bentley University,
Waltham, MA



Razan Alshehab

Bachelor of Science in
Civil Engineering
Arizona State University



Reem Alhamad

Bachelors of Science
Civil Engineering
San Diego State
University



Salman Alotaibi

Bachelor of Science in
Mechanical Engineering
Temple University

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The National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce, widely regarded as the voice of American business in the Arab world, is in touch with business communities across the United States and serves as the U.S. point of contact for the national chambers of commerce in the 22 Arab nations. On a daily basis, NUSACC works closely with leaders throughout the Arab world, as well as high-level decision makers in the U.S. business community, public policy research centers, multilateral institutions, nongovernmental organizations, media, and the U.S. Government.