



NATIONAL U.S.-ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

غرفة التجارة الأمريكية العربية الوطنية

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 23, 2016  
+1 (202) 289-5920  
[info@nusacc.org](mailto:info@nusacc.org)



## BUILDING BRIDGES: NUSACC'S EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT MEETS WITH THE GABR FELLOWS

*“People-to-people programs are essential to building professional capacity and strengthening commercial partnerships,” says David Hamod, President & CEO of the National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce (NUSACC)*

**Washington, DC** – NUSACC’s executive management team met recently with this year’s Gabr Fellows, young professionals from Egypt, Lebanon, and the United States who have been selected for their potential to play a significant role in building bridges toward sustainable development and cross-cultural understanding.



Messrs. Hamod (front center left) and Gray (front center), and this year’s Gabr Fellows.

WASHINGTON D.C. (HEADQUARTERS) • HOUSTON • LOS ANGELES • NEW YORK • SALT LAKE CITY  
1101 17TH STREET, N.W. • SUITE 1220 • WASHINGTON D.C. 20036  
TEL: (202) 289-5920 • FAX: (202) 289-5938 • [WWW.NUSACC.ORG](http://WWW.NUSACC.ORG)

David Hamod, President & CEO of NUSACC, shared with the Fellows his personal perspectives as an American of Arab descent and his professional views on U.S.-Arab commerce as the longstanding head of NUSACC. “Cross-cultural understanding, nurtured by organizations like NUSACC and the Shafik Gabr Foundation, plays a vital role in the relationship between the United States and the Arab world,” Hamod noted. “NUSACC supports people-to-people programs like this one because, at the end of the day, they are essential to building professional capacity and strengthening commercial partnerships.”

Ambassador (ret.) Gordon Gray, NUSACC’s Executive Vice President, reflected on his three years in Cairo as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy and discussed opportunities for expanding U.S.-Egyptian trade, as well as some of the current challenges standing in the way of greater commercial interaction. He noted that Egypt is the third largest market in the Arab world for U.S. goods exports, and that the United States is Egypt’s largest trading partner. Please click [HERE](#) to learn more about U.S.-Egyptian trade.

\* \* \*

Established in 2012 in response to the increasing tensions building between East and West, the [Shafik Gabr Foundation](#) sponsors and fosters exchanges between emerging leaders from both cultures in the fields of arts, science, law, media and entrepreneurship – both business and social.

*East-West: The Art of Dialogue* initiative is a dynamic exchange program designed to connect and build constructive relationships between future leaders from the Arab world and the West. Its flagship program, which has come to be known as ‘The Gabr Fellowship’, works toward the vital goal of building on the ties between nations through cross-cultural dialogue and the development of collaborative projects, which are the result of the combined visions of the Gabr Fellowship’s participants.



WASHINGTON D.C. (HEADQUARTERS) • HOUSTON • LOS ANGELES • NEW YORK • SALT LAKE CITY  
1101 17TH STREET, N.W. • SUITE 1220 • WASHINGTON D.C. 20036  
TEL: (202) 289-5920 • FAX: (202) 289-5938 • WWW.NUSACC.ORG

Each year, the Gabr Fellowship consists of 20-24 Fellows, approximately 10 Americans and 10 Egyptians, with an equal distribution of men and women. The Gabr Fellowship featured its first participant from the UK in 2015 and its first Lebanese participant this year.



Messrs. Hamod (front right) and Gray (front left) welcomed the 2015 Gabr Fellows on November 16 for a lively discussion of the Arab-American experience, U.S. Middle East policy, future challenges in the Middle East and North Africa, and NUSACC's work to build stronger bridges and greater understanding between that region and the United States.

\* \* \*

To learn more about the benefits of membership in NUSACC, please click [HERE](#).

*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.*

WASHINGTON D.C. (HEADQUARTERS) • HOUSTON • LOS ANGELES • NEW YORK • SALT LAKE CITY  
1101 17TH STREET, N.W. • SUITE 1220 • WASHINGTON D.C. 20036  
TEL: (202) 289-5920 • FAX: (202) 289-5938 • WWW.NUSACC.ORG