



NATIONAL U.S.-ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

غرفة التجارة الأمريكية العربية الوطنية

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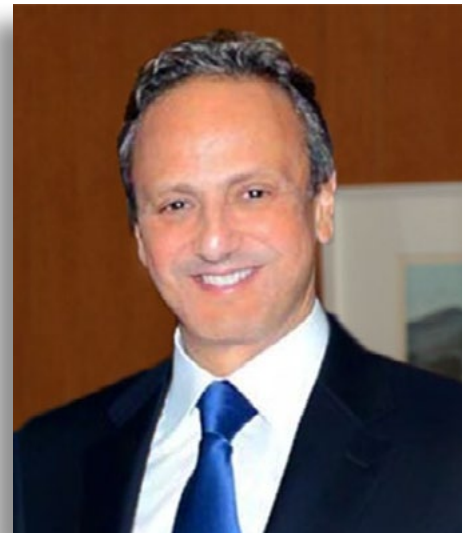
NINE KUWAITI STUDENTS ACCEPTED INTO THE 2017 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (PDI) IN THE UNITED STATES

***Nine Existing PDI Fellows Currently Employed by the
Boeing Company, Dow Chemical, General Electric, and
SMEs Across the United States***

Washington, DC – Nine Kuwaiti university students currently enrolled in the United States have been accepted for the 2017 summer term of the [Professional Development Initiative \(PDI\)](#), a joint program developed by the National U.S. – Arab Chamber of Commerce (NUSACC), the [Embassy of the State of Kuwait](#) in Washington, DC, Kuwait’s [Ministry of Higher Education](#), and the [Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences \(KFAS\)](#). The objective of the PDI is to build U.S.-Kuwaiti commercial relationships and offer professional work experience for highly qualified Kuwaiti students as they graduate from American universities and before they return to Kuwait.

All of the 2016 PDI Fellows have been placed with U.S. companies across the nation, including: major multinationals such as the Boeing Company, Dow Chemical, and General Electric; the Museum of Modern Art in New York; small- to-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) such as 1776, an entrepreneurship incubator with offices in four cities, and Ghafari Associates, an architectural and engineering firm with offices across the United States and Middle East.

“These outstanding young men and women have enjoyed the benefit of study in the United States, and the PDI program is now helping to take them to the next level in their professional careers,” said H.E. Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, Kuwait’s Ambassador to the United States and a driving force behind the program. “This is a remarkable



His Excellency Sheikh Salem Al Sabah,
Kuwaiti Ambassador to the
United States

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Dr. Adnan Shihab-Eldin,
Director General of KFAS

opportunity to gain hands-on work experience with some of America's finest companies, and the Embassy of the State of Kuwait is proud to be a partner in this highly successful enterprise."

Dr. Adnan Shihab-Eldin, Director General of KFAS, expressed his warmest welcome to the new PDI fellows. He stated, "I urge PDI Fellows to make the most out of this opportunity and gain as much knowledge and experience as possible before returning to Kuwait." He also mentioned, "KFAS is committed to building the capacity of fresh graduates and contributing to the development of the workforce in Kuwait."

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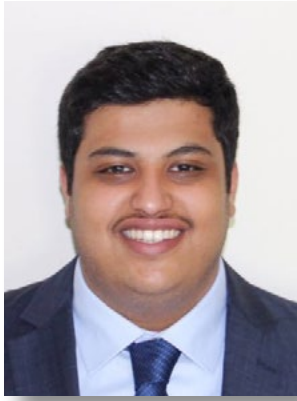
The new "class" of 2017 summer PDI Fellows includes:

- Abdulaziz AlObaid, MS in Mechanical Engineering, University of Colorado, CO
- Abdullah Alyaseen, BA in Accounting, Loyola Marymount University, CA
- Faisal AlAbdulmuhsen, BS in Applied Analytics & Entrepreneurship, Bryant University, RI
- Farah Alkharji MS in Industrial Engineering, University of Miami, FL
- Jasem AlBahar, BA in Economics and Mathematics, Pennsylvania State University, PA
- Khaleefa Alghunaim, BA in International Business, Finance, George Washington University, Washington, DC
- Maryam AlZayed, BS in Industrial Engineering, Arizona State University, AZ
- Mohammad AlMeshan, BA in Finance, Pace University, NY
- Saoud Almulla, MS in Electrical Engineering, University of Illinois, IL

"The Chamber is very pleased to welcome this new group of candidates into the PDI family," noted David Hamod, NUSACC's President & CEO. "We are hearing from U.S. host companies that PDI Fellows are contributing very meaningfully in the work place. This is a win/win for everyone: American companies are getting 'first dibs' on some of Kuwait's most promising young professionals, and the PDI Fellows are benefiting from a full year of top-of-the-line management and training."

With each new group of PDI Fellows, comprised of a summer cohort and a winter cohort, there is increased enthusiasm and a greater level of commitment to working in the United States. Moreover, the program is very attractive to PDI candidates because it includes not only job placement, but also interview coaching, mentorship, monthly training forums, and 24/7 support from NUSACC's PDI team, led by Cynthia Douglass and Janine Colon.

The PDI 2016 Fellows have all been placed with U.S. companies, and they report regularly on their work status and accomplishments. The summer Fellows have already started their work experience, while the winter Fellows are just beginning:



Abdulrahman Alaiban

(BS, Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Leadership) has been offered a position as a Mechanical Engineer with the Boeing Company in St. Louis, Missouri, and will start work

in April 2017. Abdulrahman is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University's College of Mechanical & Nuclear Engineering.



Alymamah Rashed

(BA, Fine Arts) had an excellent work experience as a Gallery Assistant at Kai Matsumiya Gallery in New York City, and she recently continued her internship with the Museum of Modern Art, where she is

working on two major projects in the drawing and prints department.



Ayoub Ali

(MS, Industrial Engineering) has been offered a position as an Industrial Engineer with the Boeing Company in St. Louis, Missouri, and he will start there in March 2017. He will be working on the wing line of Boeing's

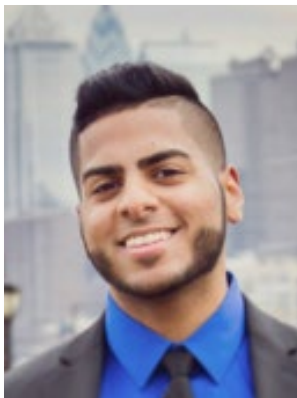
newest aircraft, the 777X. Ayoub is a graduate of the University of Central Florida.



Aziz Akbar

(BS, Mechanical Engineering) has almost completed his one-year fellowship as a maintenance engineer for Dow Chemical's Freeport, Texas plant operations. Aziz has been working on improving the

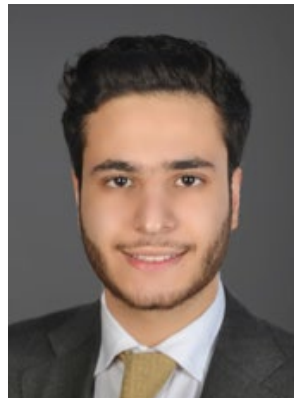
condensate system in the plant and improving the hot water pumps to reach a better Mean Time Between Failures rate for the seals in the pumps.



Mohammed Alqallaf

(BS, Architectural Engineering) is enjoying new responsibilities at Ghafari Associates that challenge him and keep him happily engaged. One of Ghafari's major clients is Ford; Mohammed is working on various

projects for Ford and is now improving the process for delivering products/services and tracking communications with Ford throughout their current 2+ year project.



Omar AlAli

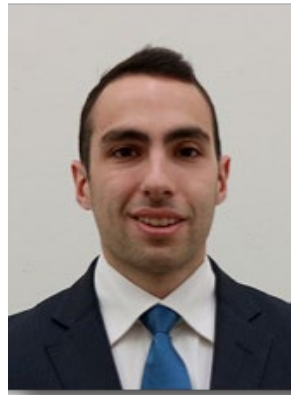
(BS, Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Leadership) has been offered a position as a Mechanical Engineer with the Boeing Company in St. Louis, Missouri, and he will start work in April 2017. Omar

is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University's College of Mechanical & Nuclear Engineering.



Sarah Gharib
 (BS, Environmental Systems Engineering, Environmental Health & Safety Option) has been offered a position as an Industrial Hygienist with the Boeing Company in Everett, Washington, and she will start work in

March 2017. Sarah is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University's College of Earth and Mineral Sciences.



Yazan AlGhabra
 (BA, International Business and Entrepreneurship) is in charge of day-to-day operations at 1776, an entrepreneurship incubator in Washington, DC. He is now hiring and supervising interns, managing vendor

relationships, and improving the Washington, DC office's overall operational excellence and image among all of 1776's offices globally.



Yousef Ali

(BS, Mechanical Engineering) is working as a mechanical engineer at General Electric in Greenville, South Carolina. He is contributing to GE's team effort to improve the quality and efficiency of gas turbines at GE globally, which leverages technology across products in the manufacturing sector of GE's operations.

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Applications for the winter 2017 PDI term will open to Kuwaiti students on April 1, 2017, and close on June 1, 2017. Please visit www.pdi-nusacc.org for more information, or contact the PDI Director, Cynthia Douglass, at cdouglass@nusacc.org.



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 MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION
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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.

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