



"KERNELS OF OUR FUTURE"

the Leadership camp

A unique educational International program for teenagers

19 July – 5 August 2010, Chania – Athens, Greece

17 May 2010

The Directors of the Greek Association for Atlantic & European Cooperation's ***Kernels of Our Future Program*** for outstanding high school students, would like to extend an invitation to young potential leaders, to participate in its' one-of-a-kind, multi-national civil society building institute taking place in Chania, Crete and Athens, Greece this July 19 – August 5. It was a distinct pleasure to have had children of distinguished parents and families as delegates to the program in the last years. We feel that each participants could contribute great insights and acumen to the group.

The Greek Atlantic Association for European Cooperation (G.A.A.E.C.) believes that a solid introduction to cross-cultural leadership dialogues should begin at the high school level. That is why, in addition to its' collaborative programming with the Fund for American Studies and Georgetown University at the college level, G.A.A.E.C. has created the ***Kernels of Our Future Program***, for youths between 15-18 years of age.

The ***Kernels of Our Future Program*** was established in 2004 at the perseverance of a group of youngsters who had been exposed to a summer University and wanted "to do the same"! A select group of approximately thirty outstanding high school students from as many as ten countries will gather in July to participate in a range of highly interactive economics, trade, governance and diplomacy seminars, conflict simulations, leadership development workshops and extracurricular activities, with all courses taught in English by a distinguished multi-national faculty. The group has been invited to meet with the President of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. Karolos Papoulias, the Chairman of the Hellenic Parliament, Mr. Philippos Petsalnikos, and a host of other dignitaries.

No other high school program in the world duplicates the ***Kernels'*** multi-national design and participant composition. The program leverages length of stay, Cradle of Democracy site selection and syllabus to achieve breakthrough experiences for the students. Evaluations show us that delegates leave feeling more mature, having increased self-confidence and with a greater ability to tolerate ambiguity, three factors that contribute to global leadership.

The ***Kernels of Our Future*** began as a program for exceptional students within the European Union. Leadership made the important decision to extend participation to two Americans in 2006. The success of that networking initiative has sparked foreign students' enrollment in US institutions of higher education and US alumni study abroad for college credit. Alumni are creating and sustaining long term bonds. It is clear that American participation is mutually beneficial and catalytic in nature.

Former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell is quoted as having said, "***International Education prepares our citizens to live, work and compete in the global economy and promotes tolerance and the reduction of conflict.***" Thomas H. Kean, Chair, and Lee H. Hamilton, Vice Chair of the 9/11 Commission, just stated their perspective in the June 12, 2008 Christian Science Monitor. "***Ignorance of the world is a national liability.***" "***Americans in vastly greater numbers must devote a substantive portion of their education to gaining an understanding of other countries, regions, languages, and cultures through direct personal experience.***" The same quote definitely applies to the citizens of the world.

We hope that more youngsters will have the opportunity to seek and experience the invigorating cross-cultural challenge of the ***Kernels of Our Future***, a program that holds great promise for cultivating peaceably skilled, personally engaged successor generation leadership.

Sincerely,

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