

Iraqi Young Leaders Program: Alumni Tracking and Impact Analysis



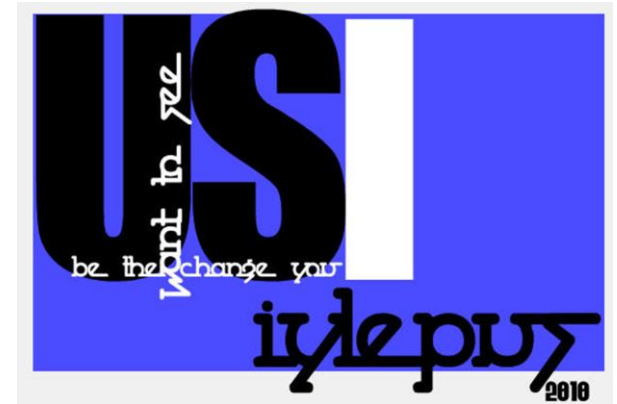
Program Participants



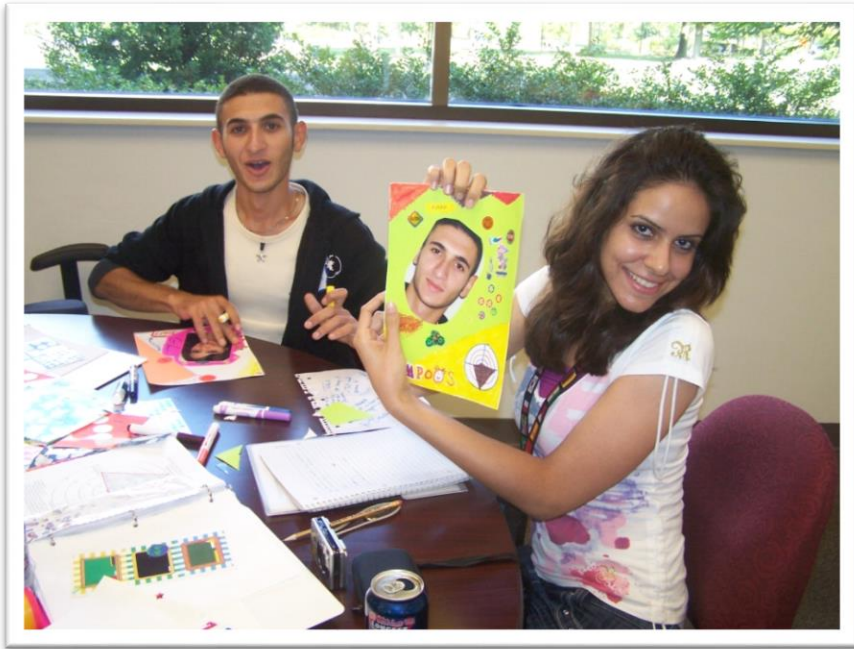
IYLEPUS 2010 Goals:

Be the Change You Want to See

- To develop
 - Strong **leadership & problem-solving skills**
 - A sense of **civic responsibility**
 - A commitment to **community development**
 - An awareness of **current & global issues**
- To heighten the **awareness of US society, culture, values & institutions**
- To promote **mutual understanding, respect & collaboration**



Program Components



Program Themes



Impact on our Community

- “Life-changing” experience
- Strong and enduring connection with and caring for the students
- Strong and enduring connections among program staff and volunteers
- Greater awareness of and understanding of Iraq and the region
- Perception of USI as an *international campus*
- Perception of the Evansville community
- Leadership Evansville still uses the program as an example of transformation and impact through servant leadership

Q3 - Has your view of the world changed as a result of your participation in the IYLEPUS program at USI? Please explain your response

Please explain your response

My participation in the IYLEPUS program at USI introduced me to learn about different cultures and countries by having the opportunity to learn from the diverse faculty and students at USI.

I'm more accepting to other people, other cultures, other ideas, and other beliefs.

It made me realize how little did I know of the outside world and how critical it is for me to connect to the outside world to share vision of a better environment for us all to live in

I've get to know how other people lives their daily life with different culture.

Yes, through understanding different cultures and coexistence and truly feel that the one can change the whole community

I started to see things in different prespective, which gave the ability to widen my view about life in general.

It made me believe that I'm also part of the world and I can have my contributions in it. Before IYLEP ,I never felt what does "the world" mean!

The biggest view that changed in me was that we are all human and we have a lot more in common that I originally thought.

Discovered that there is no such thing as WE and THEM, rather its all of us, simply cracked the shield I was hiding behind

Q3 - Has your view of American people changed as a result of your participation in the IYLEPUS program at USI? Please explain your response.

Please explain your response

I was amazed by how the American people are so friendly and by how they respect people from other cultural backgrounds.

People in Hollywood are not the typical Americans! I learned (compared to my pre-IYLEP views) they are nicer, more social, less intelligent (sorry), and very open to learn about other countries and offer help. The help sometimes came up as unnecessary or too much. Also as stated before, I learned we do the same things just a little differently. It was something that reduced unpredictability which helped to reduce fear and being more open in general to learn about others and their views

They are way different than how the media has portrayed to us, the Americans are kind-hearted and welcoming people, I don't remember walking a day in Evansville without having tens if not hundreds of smiles thrown my way

American people are so friendly in general, and love to help not like the old idea that the movies and the news tell.

I saw an very active people ,ambitious ,having big dreams and lots of potential

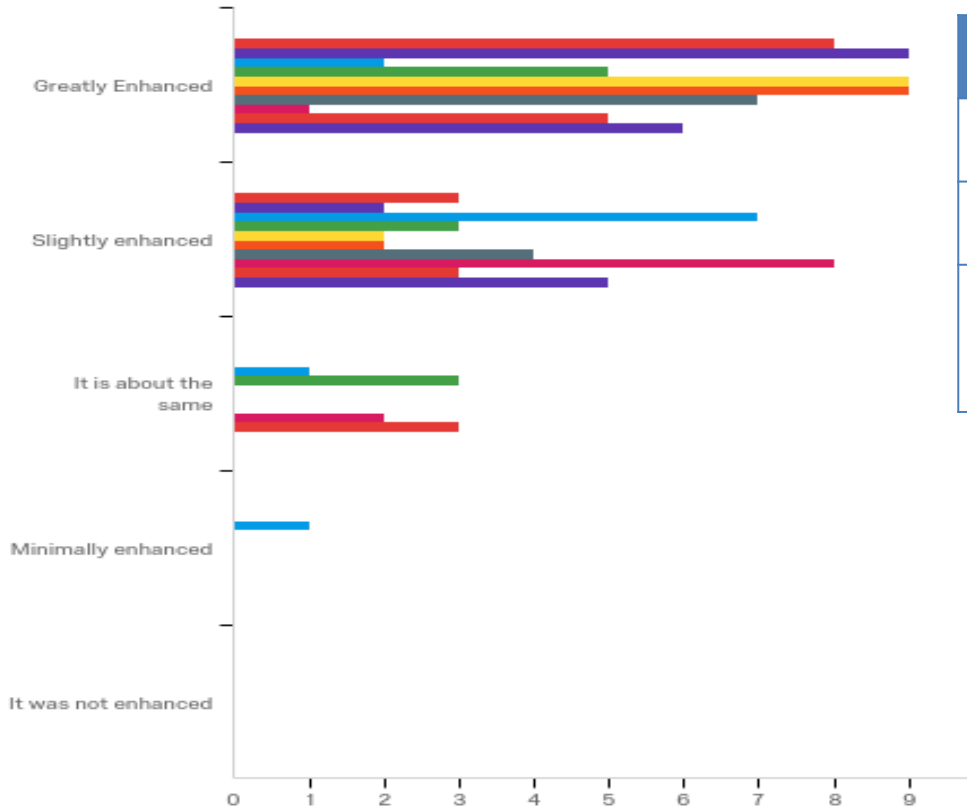
Yes its changed a little , I had the opportunity to know the people closely and feel their life and live as one of them

They much more friendly than I expected.

Every community has its own good and bad .. the ppl we met in Evansville were so friendly

They are "cool" and I always felt that but I didn't know that they have very limited information about the rest of the world..the geography and the history of other parts of the world! And the problem is, they think they don't need to know or they already know a lot!

Q15 - How did the IYLEPUS program enhance your skills in the following areas?



Skills that were greatly enhanced

- Self-Confidence
- Ability to adapt to change
- Ability to understand people who are different than you

What are they doing now?

- Engineers
- Physicians
- Dentists
- Teachers
- Entrepreneurs
- Social Justice Advocates

Video Testimonials

Video Testimonials

Shan & Noof

Key Elements of Success

- Support from top administration
- Intentional (**flexible**) design that seeks to develop community (**relationships**) and sense of civic responsibility
- 150% investment of time and energy
- Infrastructure to manage all aspects of program
- Collaboration with variety of campus constituents with genuine interest and belief in goals of the program
- A sense of openness from all participants
- Scheduled time for reflection
- A shared understanding of the significance of the program and potential to effect positive and long-lasting change (***Understanding of shared humanity***)
- Telling the story

A Sense of Shared Humanity

After the first few days it became very clear that the Iraqi students were just like any other young person, with the same attitudes, behaviors, hopes and dreams. Their experiences were different, but their humanity was just the same...Once we understood that, the barriers and apprehensions came down and a very strong bond started to form...

The Leadership Evansville timeline exercise was crucial in breaking down those barriers and helping us see our commonalities and appreciate our differences...