



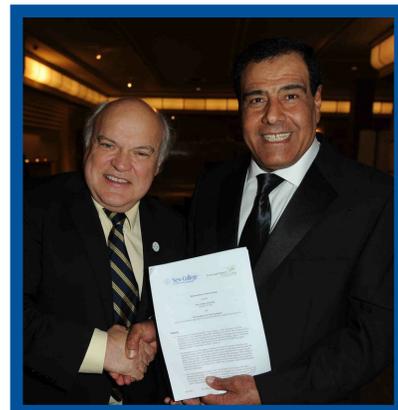
Educate for Change

A Community Initiative

Dear Friends of Educate for Change,

January 30, 2014

It has been nearly one year since Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish came to Sarasota to share his mission of creating a more peaceful Middle East through educating its women. At that time, a meeting with New College of Florida's President Dr. Donal O'Shea resulted in a partnership among the Daughters for Life Foundation, New College and our local community; the program called Educate for Change. Much has happened since the memorandum of agreement among the three partners was signed in May and we want to update you on our progress.



Judge Charles Williams of our Steering Committee has helped articulate the work to be done in phases.

Phase I was getting the plan formulated, getting the structure set up, forming the committees, spreading the word and gathering early momentum by getting community partners engaged. We are pleased that the mission of Educate for Change has resonated with our community and so many people have expressed interest in supporting our efforts.

Phase II was setting the fund raising goal, raising funds, putting together a fund raising structure for the short term and creating a model for future fund raising. Due to the extraordinary generosity of our community, including many of you, we have raised sufficient funds, both in funds received and pledges, for four years at New College for at least 5 young women. We are so grateful that so many have been moved by Dr. Abuelaish's story and by New College's eagerness to be part of this extraordinary solution by donating generously. Phase II will be ongoing; and a number of intimate gatherings (a/k/a "parlor parties") are scheduled and others are planned in the coming months to raise additional funds for more students for the Fall, 2014 entering class and, we hope, to get a start on the funding for future entering classes.



Phase III is recruiting, evaluating and making admission decisions for the women to start in fall of 2014. We are in this phase now and are working intensively with Daughters for Life and other organizations to identify and recruit highly qualified young women from our target countries who are interested in coming to the U.S. to study at New College and who meet New College's rigorous admission standards. This outreach process is extensive, involving, among others, representatives of the State Department, international education organizations, and school counselors throughout the Middle Eastern countries from which students are sought. We expect this Phase to be concluded in March, when offers of admission will be extended.

Phase IV will involve the integration of the students into the New College and local communities and developing the infrastructure of support involving New College and the community at large to insure their success. Even before this Phase has begun, a sub-committee of New College's Diversity Committee has drafted a detailed plan for welcoming our Educate for Change Scholars and organizing campus resources to support that effort. This plan encompasses everything from Arabic and Hebrew campus guides, to housing, meal preparation, orientation for Educate for Change Scholars, other students and Faculty, and host family identification, and assignment of appropriate student mentors for the students. As the students who will be coming to campus are identified, work on this phase can take finer focus as programs are developed to meet the needs of these specific scholars. Many of you have generously offered to be involved with hosting functions, by acting as host families, or in performing various other functions to make sure that the students are at home in our community. In the coming months, the organization of host volunteers and tasks will take on an organized structure, and you will be hearing more from us about those activities.



Phase V will entail developing a strategy for a longer term fund raising apparatus and involving the Educate for Change students in the continued promotion of the project, possibly in both new student recruitment and fund raising, along with continued enhancement of our program to make the students' experience at New College a successful and happy one.

Our present emphasis is on continued fund raising and 'friend' raising (Phase II) and on Phase III. The success of this program and the ability to achieve our objectives depends on the identification and admission of talented young women who are determined to get the educational background necessary to change their lives and to help them make a difference in the communities they represent. We will report on our progress against this critical objective in the second quarter of 2014. In the meantime, please let any of us know if you have any questions about the program or New College. We appreciate your continuing efforts to spread the word about this exciting program.

And, of course, thank you once again for your interest and generous support. We couldn't, and can't, do this without you!

All best wishes,

Dr. Donal O'Shea
President, New College of Florida

Dan Boxser
Chair, Educate for Change

