**SURVEY of BETWEEN THE LINES PARTICIPANTS**

**September 15, 2010**

**Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Statements**:

The information solicited on this survey is requested pursuant to the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-62) and the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act (22 U.S.C. 2451, et seq.). In order to ensure that the U.S. Department of State’s international exchange programs meet statutory program requirements (22 U.S.C. 2460(c)), the Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) regularly monitors the programs, gathers data about program accomplishments, and evaluates selected ones. ECA uses the information collected to inform program design, management, and funding. All personal information that is collected through surveys is considered confidential. All responses are coded to ensure the confidentiality of individual responses. Data collected under this study will not be shared, sold, or used for fundraising purposes. Survey data and findings will be used only in an aggregate form for the express purposes of fulfilling the data needs of the outcome assessment. Responses to this survey are voluntary.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average thirty-five (35) minutes to respond to this survey, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An Agency may not conduct or sponsor, and respondents are not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Please send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to: A/ISS/DIR, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520.

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Expiration Date: 04/30/2011

Estimated Burden Time: 35 minutes

1. In what year did you participate in the Between the Lines program? *Please select one box.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **√** |
| 2008 |  |
| 2009 |  |

1. Exchange programs provide participants with many important opportunities for learning and engaging people from other countries. In the table below, please identify the **three** most important accomplishments resulting from your participation in the Between the Lines program.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **√** |
| Improved my writing skills |  |
| Explored new or different approaches and techniques in creative writing or poetry |  |
| Explored American literature and poetry |  |
| Interacted with a writing community |  |
| Built relationships with other young writers from the U.S. |  |
| Built relationships with other young writers from my region |  |
| Shared my culture with others |  |
| Improved my English skills |  |
| Lived and studied in the United States |  |
| Other (Please write in): |  |

1. How much did the Between the Lines program meet your expectations? *Please select one box.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Did not meet any of my expectations** | **Did not meet most of my expectations** | **Met some of my expectations** | **Met most of my expectations** | **Met all of my expectations** |
|  |  |  |  |  |

1. What is your most important accomplishment that is a direct result of your experience in the Between the Lines program?

A4. Open-ended response

1. How much did the Between the Lines program improve your knowledge and skills in creative writing, poetry and forms of expression? *Please select one box in each row.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Not at All** | **To a Small Extent** | **To a Good Extent** | **To a Great Extent** | **Not Applicable** |
| **Creative Writing** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Character development |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plot development |  |  |  |  |  |
| Setting |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dialogue and voice/point of view |  |  |  |  |  |
| Creativity |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Poetry** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Structure |  |  |  |  |  |
| Voice |  |  |  |  |  |
| Imagery |  |  |  |  |  |
| Use of metaphors and/or similes |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Other skills** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Critiquing other works |  |  |  |  |  |
| Critiquing and editing your own work |  |  |  |  |  |
| Expressing your opinion verbally |  |  |  |  |  |
| Presenting work to an audience |  |  |  |  |  |
| Translation from English to Arabic of written works (yours or others) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Translation from Arabic to English of written works (yours or others) |  |  |  |  |  |
| English grammar |  |  |  |  |  |
| Arabic grammar |  |  |  |  |  |

1. Have you applied the knowledge and skills that you learned during the Between the Lines program since your return home? *Please select one box in each row.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Yes** | **No** |
| **Creative Writing** |  |  |
| Character development |  |  |
| Plot development |  |  |
| Setting |  |  |
| Dialogue and voice/point of view |  |  |
| Creativity |  |  |
| **Poetry** |  |  |
| Structure |  |  |
| Voice |  |  |
| Imagery |  |  |
| Use of metaphors and/or similes |  |  |
| **Other skills** |  |  |
| Critiquing other works |  |  |
| Critiquing and editing your own work |  |  |
| Expressing your opinion verbally |  |  |
| Presenting work to an audience |  |  |
| Translation from English to Arabic of written works |  |  |
| Translation from Arabic to English of written works |  |  |
| English grammar |  |  |
| Arabic grammar |  |  |

1. How has your creative writing or poetry changed as a direct result of your participation in the exchange program?

A7. Open-ended response

1. To what extent do you think you were able to share your culture with other teachers, students and writers while you participated in the program? *Please select one box.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Not At All** | **To A Small Extent** | **To A Good Extent** | **To A Great Extent** | **Not Applicable** |
|  |  |  |  |  |

1. What was the most significant aspect of your culture that you were able to share with other teachers, students and writers?

A9. Open-ended

1. Thinking back, what was your level of knowledgeabout the following aspects of the United States **before** participating in the Between the Lines program? *Please select one box in each row.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **No Knowledge** | **Limited Knowledge** | **Moderate Knowledge** | **Extensive Knowledge** |
| Daily life in the United States |  |  |  |  |
| American writing and poetry |  |  |  |  |
| American arts and culture |  |  |  |  |
| Religious diversity in the United States |  |  |  |  |
| Ethnic diversity in the United States |  |  |  |  |
| The U.S. political system |  |  |  |  |
| Education in the United States |  |  |  |  |
| Freedom of speech and the press in the United States |  |  |  |  |
| Voluntary community services and philanthropy in the United States |  |  |  |  |
| American history |  |  |  |  |
| American popular culture |  |  |  |  |
| The United States overall |  |  |  |  |

1. Thinking back, what was your level of knowledgeabout the following aspects of the United States **after** participating in the Between the Lines program? *Please select one box in each row.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **No Knowledge** | **Limited Knowledge** | **Moderate Knowledge** | **Extensive Knowledge** |
| Daily life in the United States |  |  |  |  |
| American arts and culture |  |  |  |  |
| American writing and poetry |  |  |  |  |
| Religious diversity in the United States |  |  |  |  |
| Ethnic diversity in the United States |  |  |  |  |
| The U.S. political system |  |  |  |  |
| Education in the United States |  |  |  |  |
| Freedom of speech and the press in the United States |  |  |  |  |
| Voluntary community services and philanthropy in the United States |  |  |  |  |
| American history |  |  |  |  |
| American popular culture |  |  |  |  |
| The United States overall |  |  |  |  |

1. How did your views of the United States Government and the American people change as a result of your participation in the exchange program? *Please select one box in each row.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Much less favorable** | **Less favorable** | **No change** | **More favorable** | **Much more favorable** |
| United States Government |  |  |  |  |  |
| American People |  |  |  |  |  |

1. What did you learn about the United States during your visit that surprised you or that you did not expect?

A13. Open-ended response

1. Have you shared your experience or knowledge you gained during your participation in Between the Lines in any of the following ways? *Please select all that apply.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **√** |
| Discussion with your family |  |
| Discussion with your friends and community members |  |
| Discussion with your colleagues |  |
| Interview with a media outlet (newspaper, television, radio or Internet) |  |
| Wrote a newspaper or magazine article, including an editorial or opinion piece |  |
| Post on a blog or other Internet networking space |  |
| Shared writing or poetry you wrote while in the United States |  |
| Formal presentation at your school/university |  |
| Formal presentation at a community event |  |
| Other (Please write in): |  |

1. Do you think your family, friends and peers have a more favorable or less favorable opinion of the United States because of the information you shared with them? *Please select one box.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Much less favorable** | **Less favorable** | **No change** | **More favorable** | **Much more favorable** | **I don’t know** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. Have you been in contact with people you met during the Between the Lines program?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **✓** |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |

If yes, go to Q17.

If no, go to Q18.

1. Of the following people you met through your participation in Between the Lines, whom have you been in contact with since your return home? *Please select all that apply.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **√** |
| American students |  |
| Other exchange students in the program |  |
| American teachers |  |
| Arabic teachers |  |
| Chaperones |  |
| Between the Lines Program Director |  |
| Between the Lines Program Coordinator |  |
| U.S. Department of State staff in Washington, D.C. |  |
| U.S. Embassy/Consulate staff |  |
| Between the Lines program alumni |  |
| Alumni of other US exchange programs in my country |  |
| Other (Please write in): |  |

1. Have you returned to the United States since you participated in the Between the Lines program?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **√** |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |

1. Do you expect to return to the United States within the next five years?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **√** |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |
| I don’t know |  |

1. Do you write more or less than you did before you participated in the Between the Lines Program?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Much less than before** | **Less than before** | **No change** | **More than before** | **Much more than before** |
|  |  |  |  |  |

1. Of the statements listed below, have you done any of the following since you returned home from your exchange visit to the United States? *Please select one box in each row.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Yes** | **No** |
| My work was published in a student magazine or student newspaper |  |  |
| My work was in a local or national magazine or newspaper |  |  |
| I organized a writing/poetry workshop or event |  |  |
| I attended a writing/poetry workshop or event |  |  |

1. Do you think you will pursue a career as a writer or a poet? *Please select one box.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **√** |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |
| I don’t know |  |

1. How has your participation in the Between the Lines program affected you personally?

A23. Open-ended response

1. Are you in school or employed? *Please select one box in each row.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Yes** | **No** |
| I am in secondary school/high school |  |  |
| I attend university |  |  |
| I attend vocational training |  |  |
| I am employed |  |  |
| Other (Please write in): |  |  |

1. Which forms of media do you primarily use to keep informed about American writing, art and culture? *Please select all that apply.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **√** |
| Television |  |
| Radio |  |
| Film |  |
| Books |  |
| Newspapers |  |
| Magazines and trade journals |  |
| *Between the Lines* website |  |
| Arts and culture websites |  |
| News websites |  |
| Social networking sites (for example, Facebook and Twitter) |  |
| Internet photo and video sharing sites (for example, Flickr and YouTube) |  |
| Other (Please write in): |  |

1. In which country do you currently live?

A26. Drop-down list

1. Which statement best describes the geographic location where you currently live? *Please select one box.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **√** |
| My country’s capital |  |
| Another major city in my country other than the capital |  |
| A small city, town or rural location in my country |  |

1. What is your age? *Please select one box.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **√** |
| 17 |  |
| 18 |  |
| 19 |  |
| 20 |  |
| 21 |  |
| 22 |  |
| 23 |  |

1. What is your gender?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **√** |
| Female |  |
| Male |  |

1. If you have additional comments or suggestions for improving Between the Lines program, please give details here. We value your thoughts and feedback.

A30. Open-ended response

1. How long did it take for you to complete this survey?

Q31. Drop-down list (minutes)

Thank you for completing this survey!