

May 13, 2010

Dear Guests:

*Asalamu Alaykum.* It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Institute for Education's 2010 Leadership Dinner. For 19 years, IFE's mission has been to recognize, encourage, and promote civility and leadership locally, nationally, and in our world community. (You can learn more about IFE on Facebook, Flickr, YouTube and Twitter.)

It is fitting, then, that we honor Christopher Caine this evening. In each of his endeavors—teaching at Lafayette College; his work at IBM; founding his own company, Mercator XXI; and playing a crucial role in just about every IFE program—Chris exemplifies all of the attributes that we strive to foster in tomorrow's generation of leaders.

We honor Chris tonight at the Egyptian Embassy, one year after President Obama's historic speech at Cairo University, to recognize the importance of economic and cultural partnerships for leaders from Egypt, the United States, and other countries around the world who seek a brighter, more secure future.

On this occasion, it is my privilege to announce the launch of LearnServe Egypt—IFE's first-ever LearnServe program in the Middle East.

The funds that we raise from this evening's event will enable students in the DC area to travel to Egypt, partner with Egyptian students, and help build the next generation of social and cultural entrepreneurs. Mercator XXI will be our business leader for this program. We will mentor Egyptian kids in fields like entrepreneurship, innovation, and leadership, and encourage risk-taking. It's initiatives like these that will draw the U.S. and Egypt closer together.

Please, everyone, take a look in the back and see IFE's interns and fellows, some of whom will be applying to participate in our pilot LearnServe Egypt trip. These young, healthy faces are what educating for responsible world citizenship is all about!

Finally, this evening's program features a vibrant discussion with esteemed opinion leaders on the topic of "Egypt and U.S.A.—Leading Through Economic and Cultural Partnerships."

I would like to extend my thanks to all of you for joining us tonight. I am grateful to our friends at the Egyptian Embassy—particularly Ambassador Sameh Shoukry and Minister Ramadan for making tonight possible. Your embassy and diplomats are a paragon of hospitality.

Thank you to our major sponsors for making tonight possible: Les Deak and Moshira Soliman, IBM, Pepco, Qualcomm, and the Honorable Anthony Williams.

I also want to recognize past IFE leadership honorees and stewards: Beverly Perry, 2008; Mayor Williams, 2006; and George Vradenburg, 2004. IFE board members who join us: Morton Kondracke; Shane Green; and IFE Diplomatic Steward and Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium, H.E. Jan Matthysen. Loyal IFE supporters Secretary Michael Chertoff and Senator Thad Cochran. Our Honorary Chairs General Brent Scowcroft and IFE Steward Judge William Webster, and our Honorary Opinion Leader Chair, Diane Rehm.

Your generosity allows IFE to continue doing the important work that it does.

Please enjoy your fine Egyptian cuisine and rigorous discourse led by our esteemed opinion leaders.

***Shukran*** and warm regards,

Kathy Kemper  
Founder and CEO, Institute for Education