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USPAK Activities

High School Students Advocate for Local Issues



A group of young Pakistani American high school students met with Congressman Mike Doyle (D) of 14th District PA, on Pakistan Day in his local office in Pittsburgh. Manal Piracha (Grade-11), Ali Piracha (G-10), Safaan Rahim (G-9), Fatima Aslam (G-10) presented a mock debate, on the issues of K-12 Education- benefits of Public vs Private funding, and Gun Ownership and Control; with two participants taking opposing points of view, and a third participant presenting a recommendation.

Congressman Doyle gave a good further discussion on the subjects, state of national legislation, and gave pointers on how to discuss with other legislators to further their point. He was really appreciative of kids coming out on Saturday morning to meet him.

This was a first such experience for the high schoolers, and they plan to conduct these efforts on a regular basis.

If you would like to hold such an event in your hometown with you US or State elected representative, please email to ed@uspakfoundation.org to learn more about how to setup and conduct such an event.

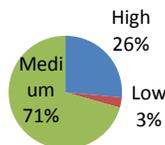
Training seminar on Local Politics



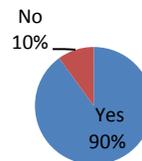
USPAK and APPNA organized an educational seminar for the youth and adults interested in participating in local politics in USA. The seminar took place during APPNA Spring meeting in New York. About 45 people attended the seminar, and learned about the mechanics of local politics, and how to develop effective strategies to impact local policies. In an interactive session seminar participants leaned on eth experiences of three elected officials, State Senator Parker of New York, Mayor Mohammed Hameeduddin, Teaneck, New Jersey and Dr. Saud Anwar, Council Member, City of Windsor, CT. Value and importance of being a part of the political process in the U.S. Panelists shared campaign strategies, volunteering for political campaigns, and successful articulating of campaign messages.

A survey conducted amongst students, showed that 90% of students have participated in elections at their school. Most students have a medium interest in politics. A high number of 26% of survey respondents have an interest in running for public office in future; they need training to achieve their objectives.

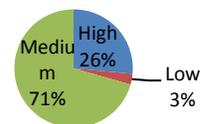
Level of Interest in Politics



Participated in School Elections



Plan to run for Office in future



Pakistan Heritage Day

On April 6th, 2013, the Pakistani American Association of Connecticut, Connecticut Association of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistani Descent, and the USPAK Foundation partnered to host an event in celebration of Pakistani heritage. The event was organized at the spacious Madina Academy the full time Muslim School in Connecticut.

It was a heart-warming to see an overflowing, emotionally charged Pakistani community exuding spontaneous love for the home



country and paying glowing tributes to the founder of the nation, Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad Iqbal who presented the idea of Pakistan to the people of British India . The goal of the program was to reach out to Pakistani youth about the history and beauty of their country. The event started off with the recitation of Surah Rahman and the playing of the national anthems of Pakistan and the United States. Then, children presented on a variety of topics including the creation of Pakistan, the leaders of Pakistan including Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Iqbal, their contributions to the creation of the nation, and images of beautiful landscapes of Pakistan. Children also sang cultural songs and spoke to the audience about their heritage. They highlighted the importance of the Pakistan Day in the history of South Asia and how the momentous occasion served as a catalyst in the freedom movement of the subcontinent's Muslims. Quoting statistics and citing references they furnished proof that Pakistan is a country on the march and has achieved a great measure of success in various fields after emerging as an independent state on August 14, 1947.

Mr. Faqir Syed Asif Hussain, Consul General of Pakistan, New York was the chief guest at the occasion. He discussed the history, politics and the leadership contribution behind the development of Pakistan movement starting from 1935. He gave the message of hope to youth of Pakistani descent in United States of America. He encouraged them to keep a close relationship with their roots while living abroad. Dr. Syed Muhammad Farooq, the Community Counselor at the Pakistani Consulate of New York also spoke to the audience about Pakistanis living abroad and contributing to Pakistan. He mentioned about the desire of the government of Pakistan to give the right of vote to Pakistanis living abroad. Consul General Mr. Faqir Syed Asif Hussain and Community Consular Dr. Farooq were presented flower bouquets on the occasion. Mr. Shahid Ahmad close ally of foreign secretary John Kerry who was recently awarded Sitara-e-Pakistan by President of Pakistan was also honored. Dr. Irshad Ahmad services were recognized and he was also honored for his services to the community especially establishing Madina Academy for the Muslims of the Connecticut. He delivered a very emotional speech and reminded all the audience about the contribution and role of Pakistan in our daily lives. He highlighted the achievements of the students of Madina Academy. He proudly announced at the occasion that Madina Academy students will be representing in the national science competition. President Mr. Zaheer Sharaf, vice President Dr. Saqib Naseer of PAACT and Board member of US Pak foundation Dr. Atique Mirza also spoke to the audience at the occasion. US Pak foundation Chairman Board of directors Dr. Saud Anwar also attended the meeting. Mrs. Tazeen Sharaf performed as master of ceremony during the gathering. The stage was decorated with the Pakistani and American Flags and pictures of eminent leaders of Pakistan who helped to establish a separate homeland for the Muslims of south east Asia. Hors d'oeuvres and special cakes with images of the Pakistani flag were served honoring Pakistan heritage day.

[Future Events](#)

4th Annual Youth Leadership Conference

USPAK foundation will hold its 4th Annual Youth Leadership Conference “**Shaping Your Future**” from **June 23rd to 26th 2013** at **American University, Washington DC**. The conference is suited for high school and college students; it is designed to develop their Leadership skills. In a campus setting students will participate in tutorials, workshops, and hands-on training to acquire networking, public speaking, resume writing, public speaking, interviewing skills during the four days of the conference. They will meet and interact with various professional leaders to discuss career planning. Special briefings by Administration officials on topics of interests. An interfaith community service project has also been added to this year leadership conference. Students will have the opportunity to visit various Government Offices and monuments in Washington DC. Conference [program](#) is under development visit website periodically for updates.

[Register for Conference](#)

To learn more about the upcoming Youth Leadership Conference watch a [video](#) prepared by USPAK Foundation.

USPAK welcomes [sponsorship](#) for deserving students. We request you to consider sponsoring students.

You can find more information about the conference at USPAK Foundation [website](#).

[Read More](#) about previous Youth Conferences organized by USPAK. For more information call 202 505 4725 or email to ed@uspakfoundation.org

[NEWS](#)

Cyber 9/12 Student Challenge

The Cyber 9/12 Student Challenge is a student competition devoted to high-level policy recommendations for day-after responses to a major cyber incident. The competition will take place on **June 15, 2013** in Washington DC. The annual event organized by the Atlantic Council and Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) is the “must attend” student event in international cyber security policy.

The Cyber 9/12 Student Challenge engages students with a small group of experts representing various sectors including government, finance, telecom, and the press. This competition promotes awareness of cyber security policy issues while providing students and experts an opportunity to network and develop new ideas on the future of cyber security policy. [Read More](#)

Pakistan India Trade – study by Wilson Center

After a period of warming ties in 2011 and 2012, Pakistan-India relations are off to a rough start in 2013--threatening to weaken the momentum for normalizing commercial ties between the two neighbors. A new Asia Program publication on Pakistan-India trade highlights the benefits and risks--for both countries--of a formal trade relationship, and examines what needs to be done to push the process forward. [Read Report](#)

Resources

[Atlantic Council](#)
[Brookings Institution](#)
[Council on Foreign Relations](#)
[Heritage Foundation](#)
[Middle East Institute](#)
[SAIS](#)
[Woodrow Wilson Center](#)
[USIP](#)

Help Us Help You

USPAK is a volunteer organization working for the betterment of Pakistani Americans. Our efforts are focused on developing future leaders of our country from within our community. We also work to address issues of concern of our community, ranging from immigration, civil liberties, religious freedom, and socio-economic development of Pakistani American community.

It is through help of supporters like you that we are able carry on our vision promoting the ambitions and aspirations of Pakistani Americans. Your support today can ensure that Pakistani Americans have a place at the table, as we shape the policies on immigration, the economy and civil rights. You can help build a more vibrant and inclusive democracy.

Can we count on you to help? Can you donate \$500, \$250 or \$150 today? [Click here to Donate Now](#). USPAK is a 501 c3 non-profit organization; your donation qualifies for tax deduction.