

Promoting the ambitions and aspirations of Pakistani Americans

## USPAK EVENTS

### Annual Youth Leadership Conference Pictures

USPAK in collaboration with APPNA conducted a three day Youth Empowerment Conference, about 125 high school and college students from various parts of USA and Canada attended the Conference.



[Conference pictures](#) can be viewed online at USPAK [Facebook page](#). Pictures can be [downloaded](#) for your usage.

### UPCOMING EVENT

**SAVE THE DATE: YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR – SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15 2014, AVON, CT. MORE DETAILS SOON**

## NEWS

### Meeting Malala gives boost to creators of #GirlWithABook project

On October 11, 2012, two days after then 14-year-old Malala Yousafzai survived an assassination attempt on her way home from school in Pakistan, United Nations [Secretary-General](#) Ban Ki-moon told the world that the abhorrent and cowardly attack exposed what really frightens extremists the most: “a girl with a book.”



❖ Quick links for further information

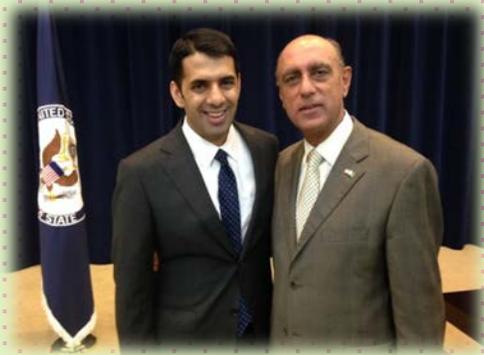
- [info@uspakfoundation.org](mailto:info@uspakfoundation.org)
- 202 505 4 PAK
- [Website](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)





Inspired by those words, two students at American University, in Washington, D.C., responded with a campaign using that phrase – [#GirlWithABook](#) – reaching out and urging the world to: “Stand with Malala Yousafzai and show the Taliban that there's no way they can stop us girls from getting an education. Ever. Post a picture of yourself reading a book or holding a sign of support.”

“The terrorists have shown that they are afraid of a girl with a book, so we stuck it to them by inviting people to post pictures of girls with books,” reads the [website](#) set up by creators Olivia Curl and Lena Shareef. [Read More](#)



### Shaarik Zafar appointed as Special Representative to Muslim Communities

Shaarik Zafar a Pakistani American was appointed as Special Representative to Muslim Communities by Secretary of State John Kerry. Over two hundred friends and family members attended the event at Dean Acheson Auditorium in State Department. Speaking at the appointment ceremony, Secretary Kerry said “When Shaarik started drafting the U.S. Strategy on Religious Leader and Faith Community Engagement, he began with two words: “Religion matters.” We are making that a

mantra here at the State Department in our foreign policy, and I see it every single day. In addition, I particularly see it in my multiple engagements in the Far East and South Central Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, and Sub-Sahara Africa.

Let me be clear as a starting point for today’s conversation: The real face of Islam is not what we saw yesterday, when the world bore witness again to the unfathomable brutality of ISIL terrorist murderers. When we saw Steven Sotloff, an American journalist who left home in Florida in order to tell the story of brave people in the Middle East – we saw him brutally taken from us in an act of medieval savagery by a coward hiding behind a mask... I want to emphasize – (applause) – but here today, what is really important – and I want to take advantage of this podium and of this moment to underscore as powerfully as I know how that the face of Islam is not the butchers who killed Steven Sotloff. That is ISIL. (Applause.) The face of Islam is not the nihilists who know only how to destroy, not to build. It has not masked cowards whose actions are an ugly insult to the peaceful religion that they violate every single day with their barbarity and whose fundamental principles they insult with their actions.

The real face of Islam is a peaceful religion based on the dignity of all human beings. It is one where Muslim communities are leading the fight against poverty. It is one where Muslim communities are providing basic healthcare and emergency assistance on the front lines of some of our most devastating humanitarian crises. In addition, it is one where Muslim communities are advocating for universal human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the most basic freedom to practice one’s faith openly and freely. America’s faith communities, including American Muslims, are sources of strength for all of us. They’re an essential part of our national fabric, and we are committed to deepening our partnerships with them”. [Read complete transcript](#)

## Raheela Ahmad Appointed to University System of Maryland Board of Regents

After nearly winning a bid for the Prince George's County Board of Education, District 5 seat against former chairwoman Jeana Jacobs in 2012 (47%-53%), Raaheela Ahmed breaks ground as the first South Asian, and likely the first home-grown Bowieite to serve in the role of Student Regent. She is one of a handful of women that have been selected for this honor in the history of the system. Ahmed, 21, attends the University of Maryland in College Park, majors in both Finance and Economics and plans to graduate in May.

Raaheela is excited to be representing over 150,000 students in 12 institutions and 2 regional centers. Her focus for this year will be on college affordability, financial literacy and mental health issues. [Read More](#)

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## New Non-Immigrant Visa Appointment System in Pakistan

The Embassy and Consulate General of the United States of America in Islamabad and Karachi, Pakistan will transition to a new appointment and document delivery service for the non-immigrant visa unit as of August 24, 2014. This new system, which is being implemented in phases at U.S. Embassies and Consulates worldwide, is designed to be more comprehensive and user-friendly. It replaces the current appointment system of scheduling at Amex and Speedex locations in Pakistan, though these contractors will also be involved in the new system.

In addition to the new online system, there will be a new call center with more hours for applicants to obtain information by phone, as well as by email. There is no charge for the call other than normal charges for a call within Pakistan.

Starting August 24, 2014, applicants can book a new appointment online: <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/pk>. Beginning August 25, 2014, Call Center representatives will be available. Information on the call center hours and number will be released on the website.

The Embassy and Consulate General websites, <http://islamabad.usembassy.gov> and <http://karachi.usconsulate.gov>, will include general visa information and a link to the new scheduling website with significantly more information than before. These two websites and the Call Center are the only official sources of general visa information and are the only authorized methods to schedule a personal visa interview. Applicants who already paid an application fee under the old system but did not schedule an appointment with that fee should contact the call center to arrange an appointment outside of the new appointment system.

Some elements of the application procedure will be similar to before, and others will change. For example, the online application form remains the same. However, customers will need to create an account ID or have the call center create one, and pay the fee based on this profile, before making an appointment.

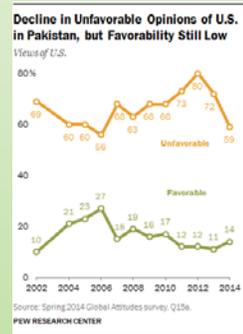
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## A Less Gloomy Mood in Pakistan – Pew Survey

Pakistanis continue to voice mostly negative opinions of the U.S. Just 14% have a favorable view of the U.S., essentially unchanged from last year's 11%. However, [the percentage of Pakistanis expressing an unfavorable view has declined over the last two years](#). Currently, 59% offer a negative rating, down from 72% last year and 80% in 2012. About a quarter of Pakistanis (27%) give no opinion about the U.S., up from 16% last year, and 9% two years ago.

Very few Pakistanis give President Barack Obama a positive review. [Only 7% say they have confidence that Obama will do the right thing in world affairs.](#) About half (52%) lack confidence in the American leader, unchanged from 2013, but down from a peak of 68% in 2011. Fully 41% offer no opinion about Obama.

Drone strikes against extremist organizations, a key element of the Obama administration's national security policy, are widely unpopular in Pakistan, which has been the target of numerous strikes in recent years. [Two-in-three Pakistanis oppose U.S. drone attacks,](#) while just 3% approve and 30% offer no opinion. (As the spring 2014 Pew Research poll [shows](#), drone strikes are unpopular across much of the globe).



Two-thirds [of Pakistanis believe drone strikes kill too many innocent people,](#) and only 21% think they are necessary to defend the country from extremist groups. Roughly four-in-ten (41%) say the drone strikes are being conducted without the approval of Pakistan's government.

Another major Obama administration policy is more popular among Pakistanis: withdrawing most U.S. troops from neighboring Afghanistan. By a 46%-11% margin, Pakistanis say this is a good thing rather than a bad thing (40% do not have an opinion). [Read More](#)

## INTERNSHIPS

### **U.S. Department of State Summer 2015 Student Internship Program**

We wanted to let you know that the application for the **summer 2015 Student Internship Program (unpaid)** will open on **September 2, 2014** and close on **October 17, 2014.**

This program offers U.S. citizen undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to participate in **10-week, unpaid internships** that provide intensive educational and professional experience within the environment of America's principle foreign affairs agency.

So if you would like to spend next summer as an intern with the U.S. Department of State, please mark your calendar and make sure to apply before the deadline. You will not only have an experience of a lifetime, you may even earn educational credit.\*

\* Applicants who are selected for a U.S. Department of State Student Internship Program (unpaid) can contact the selecting bureau, or the central Student Programs office, if they require further details about the program to support their request for academic credit. **Please visit <http://careers.state.gov/intern/which-program-is-right-for-you> for more information**

### **Scholarships for students pursuing careers in journalism, advertising, broadcasting, public policy**

The Suburban Welfare foundation (SWF) is a non-profit foundation of Gaithersburg, Maryland. In 2014 SWF intends to provide \$2000 scholarships to students pursuing a career in the communication

field. Applications will be accepted by email only. Scanned documents are acceptable. Please do not send large files.

Send to: [suburbanwelfarefoundation@gmail.com](mailto:suburbanwelfarefoundation@gmail.com)

### **Requirements:**

-  Muslim students of undergraduate or graduate students;
  -  Attending college in the current academic year at a US institution at the graduate or undergraduate levels;
  -  Have at least a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale;
  -  Two letters of recommendation; preferably, one from a professor.
  -  Academic transcripts (can be an official transcript issued to the student);
  -  Resume
  -  Additional supporting material such as articles, videos, and publications.
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## **The American Immigration Council Annual Multimedia Contest**

The American Immigration Council is seeking submission for its national multimedia competition. The contest, "Change in Motion," challenges young adults to explore the role immigration plays in their everyday lives and communities through creative multimedia projects. Projects should focus on celebrating the diversity of the United States and explore the commonalities that bind our "nation of immigrants" together. **Please [share](#) these guidelines with those who are interested.**

**Who is eligible?** Young adults between the ages of 14-25 are eligible. Individual or group entries are permitted; however, there is a single cash prize for first, second and third places.

**What is the prize?** There will be first (\$1,000), second (\$500) and third place (\$250) winners.

**What is the deadline?** The deadline is **January 15, 2015**.

**For more information, including the rules and terms of the contest, please visit the [Multimedia Contest webpage](#).**

### **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](#) and use Donate button. USPAK is a 501 c3 non-profit organization; your donation qualifies for tax deduction