

# STUDENT RESEARCH COMPETITION

## OBJECTIVE

Our goal is to have next generations to be Global Muslim with the following values and skills

- Proud with his/her Muslim identity.
- Strong faith and belief.
- Strong personal piety.
- Strong ethics and morality values.
- Service-global awareness.
- Possession of Democratic & liberal values.
- In realization of multicultural, pluralistic, and diverse society.
- Activist, socially well-integrated.
- Career and life goals.
- Intellectual, critical thinkers.

## WHY THIS WORK IS IMPORTANT?

Early cases indicate the fact that our second generation is going to face the challenges that most of the immigrant's children have been facing in the US. These challenges can be categorized under three sections.

Section1 Cultural/ Religious Values

Section2 Cultural Center Programs and Supports

Section 3 Leadership / Social Impact

### Section1 Cultural/ Religious values

**Problem 1:** Cultural Inclusiveness/ Raising Global Citizens

What could be done to foster an environment for cultivating “global citizens” (in the context of “yeryuzu mirascilari”)? Define the characteristics of “global citizens” and provide strategies to overcome the current challenges (i.e. most members living within their circle/in a bubble)? Give concrete suggestions for first-generation and second-generation members for their (1) healthy and smooth integration to the society & (2) feeling an important part of their society & finally (3) owning the society.

What is the difference between Assimilation and Cultural Integration?

What is the difference between Multiculturalism and Assimilation?

What happens when there is “no cultural Integration” in an immigrant group?

**Problem 2: Ethical Values**

What can be done to have Global Citizens to survive from “Negative Effects of the Popular Youth Culture” in the US? In particular drugs, boyfriend/girlfriend, gender and sexual orientation choice, ideal body shape, “being rich and famous” and narcissist identity.

**Problem 3: Disaffiliation**

The USA is becoming somewhat less religious; it is also becoming more religiously diverse. Youth of the immigrants (the second generation) are subject to this change in the dominant culture and they become more susceptible to disaffiliation from their parents’ religious values.

What would be the source of the “Religious Disaffiliation” and what can be done to prevent it?

**Problem 4: Social isolation**

Immigrants’ biggest challenge is social isolation. First generation immigrants have the sense of "The culture was completely different from our roots. So, adapting into our new neighborhood was the most difficult part. There were no other Islanders who spoke the same language as us."

Do you think this statement is valid among the first-generation Turkish Americans?

What would be indicators of “Social isolation” among Turkish- American youth?

What happens if Turkish- American youth has the sense of “ I do not belong here !” .?

**Section2 Cultural center programs and supports**

This section is about the services provided by the local Turkish Community centers. Also, including the weekend school, summer and winter camps.

**Problem 5: Improvement of the Youth oriented programs**

What can be done to improve the Youth oriented programs? You would approach this problem from the following different angles:

Quality of the Teacher / Instructors

Teaching material (Books / Magazines/ Video etc)

The subjects covered in the programs

What can be done to improve the programs?

### Section 3 Leadership / Social Impact

#### Problem 6: Sense of purpose

What can be done to have youth with “sense of purpose” in their life?

How can the Global Citizens contribute to their society with their skills/talents and feel responsibility for all current issues/challenges of the society and dynamically act on them.

#### TEAM STRUCTURE

Each team will be preparing a research report under the supervision of a Mentor. Team can pick one of section and related questions in the above mentioned section.

The structure of the teams

- Coordinator : A person who is going to provide connections and logistics
- Mentor : An academics ( Faculty member) from college/university
- Team members : Min 3 college students

#### EXPECTED OUTCOME

Research report. Please see attached “FORMAT OF RESEARCH REPORT”. No more than 20 pages

Power point presentation ( not more than 20 slides) to summarize the project.

#### AWARDS/BENEFITS

**Graduate level skills:** The structure of the program is in the level of Graduate Research. The mentor will have students (team members) to actively participate of learning “How to do academic research “.

**Recommendation letters:** Successful project participants will be receiving recommendation letters from the High Caliber jury members.

**Scholarship:** Winning team will receive-----

#### TIME LINE

DATE :	PROCESS
March 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Start of the competition
April 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Team formed and mentor faculty member assigned
May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017	Team selected the 1 problem and started academic research
June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Deadline to submit the report ( Pdf) and PowerPoint
TBA	Announcement of the winners