



A journey of discovery connecting continents and cultures across centuries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

THE MOUSE THAT ROARED

Elkader, Iowa - Site of International Conference on "The Good Jihadist"

On September 18-19 Elkader (Iowa), home of the Abdelkader Education Project (AEP, Inc.), will host the sixth annual celebration of its namesake, Emir Abdelkader al Jazairi. Known as Algeria's George Washington, the emir was a warrior, scholar, freedom fighter of the 19th century who was admired across the world. Even a local lawyer in Dubuque named his new settlement in the emir's honor in 1846. This year, AEP will honor high school and college students from across the U.S. for their winning essays: **Why Emir Abdelkader matters today.** (www.abdelkaderproject.org)

"Beyond the inspirational nature of his actions, Abdelkader's tenets should function as a blueprint for human interactions." **James Wendt, Naperville North High School – 2015 U.S. 1st Place**

"Emir Abdelkader was confident in his tolerance and his faith as a servant of the God for all humanity, a faith that reflects the open spirit of that intersection of Arab-American life and destiny reached through the corn fields of Iowa." **Abderrahim Foukara, Bureau Chief of Aljazeera, Washington, DC**

This year's forum offers a unique blend of education and business with culture. It will explore how Emir Abdelkader's "lived faith" can serve as a model for reconciling differences and fostering respectful engagement with and within the Islamic world. Highlighting the event will be a keynote address by H.E. Madjid Bouguerra, Algerian Ambassador to the U.S. Ambassador Bouguerra will lead the 20-member delegation from Algeria that includes Dr. Ismael Chikhoun, CEO/President of the U.S. Algeria Business Council, and entrepreneur Abdelmalek Sahraoui along with businessmen, professors, journalists and a Bedouin musical ensemble. They will join other special guests including Abdelkader descendant, Elemir Khaled El Djazairi, and leaders in business, government and education from across the world. The theme of this year's forum is **Why Emir Abdelkader Matters in Today's World.**

The Saturday morning education and business sessions will be held concurrently at Keystone Area Education Agency. It is a public event but pre-registration is required. The afternoon AEP Forum Program will be held in the Elkader Opera House and is a free public event. Awards will be presented to 2014-2015 Abdelkader Global Leadership Prize essay contest winners along with the keynote presentation. The program will conclude with discussions and networking while enjoying traditional Andalusian music performed by Algerian musicians.

The AEP Forum is open to anyone interested in learning about Islam through Emir Abdelkader's life story, one that integrates culture, education, and religious understanding. It has won attention from Harvard's Pluralism Project, the U.S. State Department, officers at Marine Corps University and Boy Scouts in Kashmir. For more information or to register, contact Kathy Garms, AEP Executive Director, kathy@abdelkaderproject.org.

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Abdelkader Education Project, Elkader, Iowa 52043 USA www.abdelkaderproject.org