

Elkader, Iowa to Host International Conference

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A journey of discovery connecting cultures across centuries

## 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 Jazairy. Known as Algeria's George Washington, the emir was a warrior, scholar, freedom fighter of the 19<sup>th</sup> 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.**

"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. 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Djazairy, 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. Educators will be introduced to new curriculum on tolerance and ethical leadership along with other humanistic topics relevant for today. The business session will include opportunities with Algeria as presented by Algerian business leaders. Kathy Hill, Iowa International Trade Team Leader, will join discussions.

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 address and other special presentations. 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 exploring an important part of history with focus on 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.

[Click here](#) for a full schedule of events.

For more information or to register, contact Kathy Garms, AEP Executive Director, [kathy@abdelkaderproject.org](mailto:kathy@abdelkaderproject.org).



**ABDELKADER EDUCATION PROJECT (AEP)** is a 501c3 NPO that promotes cultural literacy, civility and respectful engagement between all people through education and outreach drawing on the life story of Emir Abdelkader (1808-1883). His legacy as a unifier is a powerful and accessible example of moral leadership exhibiting universal values – courage, integrity, intellect, humility and compassion – that transcend culture and faith traditions.

**AEP DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRAM FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES** are available.

Becoming a sponsor demonstrates commitment to education in building cultural understanding and

providing global perspectives for educators and students as well as business, social and political leaders of all faiths and cultures. To donate and learn more, please visit [www.abdelkaderproject.org](http://www.abdelkaderproject.org).

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