



United States Department of State

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Washington, DC 20522

www.state.gov

May 15, 2017

Dear Margaret Kurilecz:

On behalf of the U.S. Department of State, congratulations on being awarded a 2017 National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) scholarship. This year, over 3,500 outstanding young Americans from across the United States applied to the NSLI-Y program, making the application process extremely competitive. Your selection as a NSLI-Y scholar is a wonderful achievement of which you and your family can be very proud.

As you know, NSLI-Y's primary focus is language acquisition. It is the first U.S. Department of State program to provide scholarships for high school age Americans to study language while living and engaging with people in Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Persian, Russian, and Turkish-speaking countries. I encourage you to think of your Arabic studies as a stepping stone to future language programs, as well as to the lifelong learning and use of foreign languages in both your academic and professional careers. At the conclusion of your program, you will be part of an exciting alumni network of more than one million students and professionals from around the world who have participated in U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs, including over 5,000 NSLI-Y alumni.

NSLI-Y scholars play an important role in representing the United States as citizen ambassadors – a responsibility we hope you take seriously as you meet and interact with people overseas. Indeed, as you are immersed in the culture and language of Arabic, you will have many opportunities to share your thoughts and experiences about what it means to be an American and a global citizen – and you will learn to do it in Arabic! You will also experience firsthand the power of language to create bonds of friendship, respect, and understanding across cultures. In doing so, you will be helping to create a more peaceful future for all of us.

Again, congratulations on your acceptance into the NSLI-Y program, and for having the enthusiasm, curiosity, and desire to learn the language of another culture. Please also extend my appreciation to your parents or guardians for supporting you in this important endeavor. I wish you a rewarding year of language study in Jordan, and a lifetime of engaging with the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michele Peters".

Michele Peters
Branch Chief, Youth Programs Division
Office of Citizen Exchanges