

## **ABOUT JIMENA & THE STUDENT INTERNSHIP**

JIMENA is a non-profit organization based in San Francisco which seeks recognition for the nearly one million Jews indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa displaced from their country of origin within the past century. JIMENA is dedicated to the preservation of Mizrahi and Sephardi history and culture and operates through its Speakers Bureau, Oral History Project, and Cultural Outreach Programming. Since its establishment in 2001, JIMENA has worked on over 70 college campuses throughout North America, offering a wide array of programming which has impacted and inspired thousands of students and adult audiences.

### **JIMENA's Value on College Campuses**

Anti-Israel sentiment on college campuses continues to create hostile environments for students, faculty and staff throughout North America. Many civic and Jewish organizations have mobilized to counter the actions and rhetoric against Israel and its supporters on campus, including JIMENA. JIMENA's Speakers Bureau, which is composed of 30 former Jewish refugees from countries throughout the Middle East and North Africa, have empowered thousands of students by sharing their personal stories and the lesser-known communal narratives of oppression, displacement and statelessness experienced by 850,000 Jews from Arab countries. They have effectively added context to widely adopted historical narratives of the Middle East, which recognize Palestinians as the only refugee group from the Arab-Israeli conflict. JIMENA's speakers educate students on the history of anti-Semitism, oppression, dispossession, fractured identities and loss experienced by the one million Mizrahi and Sephardi Jews who were forced to leave their homelands and become one of the largest indigenous refugee groups of the Middle East. We discuss how Israel was once the largest refugee camp in the Middle East, but was able to successfully integrate thousands of displaced persons-- a challenge its Arab neighbors have failed to meet. We teach of tolerance, respect, and honor; sharing our personal stories and recognizing the suffering of all victims of the conflict. Our JIMENA Advocacy Kits, designed for student use, include country specific information, public speaking tips, detailed information on the ARM method of debate, and other useful Israel Advocacy tools.

### **The JIMENA Student Internship**

An exciting new initiative, JIMENA is expanding its campus programming outreach by empowering JIMENA Student Interns on campuses throughout the country. JIMENA Interns will be responsible for further delving into Mizrahi/Sephardic culture through the development and completion of an independent, academic project that incorporates JIMENA's mission and is aligned with their area of study. Interns will also share this rich culture with their campus communities through the implementation of a program, ideally one including a presentation by a

JIMENA Speaker. Throughout the semester, the Intern will be encouraged to cultivate a JIMENA student committee of his/her peers, engaging them to tangibly and sustainably change Jewish campus culture by empowering them to advocate on behalf of JIMENA's cause, and ensuring an Internship successor for the following academic term.

### **JIMENA Internship Objectives – What's the Internship all about?**

*The Internship aims to empower talented, passionate young adults in:*

- Developing a deeper understanding of Mizrahi and Sephardic history and culture through the execution of a self-designed research, creative, or technical project
- Sharing Mizrahi and Sephardic traditions with peers, exposing their campus community to the often unknown personal histories and culture of Mizrahi and Sephardi Jews
- Effectively using the JIMENA narrative for Israel advocacy purposes, and empowering peers to do the same
- Serving as an example of Jewish diversity, multiculturalism, and religious pluralism on campus, and inspiring others to celebrate and take pride in Judaism's rich cultural diversity
- Helping preserve Jewish stories, traditions and customs endangered of extinction

### **Requirements of JIMENA Interns – What will Interns do?**

*The Internship requires Interns to:*

- Serve as informed JIMENA ambassador on campus:
  - Be able to passionately articulate on behalf of JIMENA's cause
  - Be familiarized with the materials and resources included in the JIMENA Student Internship Kit
  - Stay informed of current events in the Middle East and North Africa
- Design and complete an academic project related to Mizrahi and Sephardic history or culture and relevant to their course of study:
  - Can be research-based, creative, or technical project
  - To be agreed upon by Intern and JIMENA Staff (and local advisor, if applicable)
- Plan and execute a JIMENA-inspired program on campus
  - Submit planning and evaluation forms, event photographs and any relevant marketing materials used
  - Recruit peers and mobilize a JIMENA committee on campus to assist with programs
  - Work in conjunction with an on-campus student organization
- Maintain consistent communication with JIMENA offices
  - Submit timely weekly reports
  - Participate in weekly conference calls with JIMENA staff
  - Complete a mid-semester and conclusive evaluation of the Internship
  - Participate in two satellite/conference call meetings with JIMENA Interns nationwide
- Create sustainable change to campus culture
  - Maintain a record of students interested in JIMENA (JIMENA student committee, program attendees, and interested potential interns)
  - Build relationships between the JIMENA student committee and other appropriate campus organizations

- Meet all requirements in a timely, professional manner
- Additional duties and meetings with local supervisors may be required if earning college credit

### **Qualities of a JIMENA Intern**

*JIMENA Interns should possess the following traits:*

- Have a strong interest in learning more about JIMENA and advocating on behalf of its cause
- Have time in his/her academic and extracurricular schedules to work on Internship-related activities and programming; recognizing that planning, executing, and follow-through for the program and project require time commitments that may vary from week-to-week
- Can commit to serving as a JIMENA Intern for the entire Winter/Spring 2012 academic term
- Can cope with the challenges involved with programming on campus which may include unreliable attendance, last minute crises, etc.
- Have a strong desire to grow professionally and gain invaluable transferrable experience

*Note: The JIMENA Student Internship is an opportunity available to all interested students, regardless of ethnic or religious background.*

### **Intern Incentives – What will Interns receive in exchange for their hard work?**

*Aside from the intrinsic awards of meeting the expected outcomes as stated above, potential Interns may choose to consider the following as reasons to apply:*

- Potential to earn college credit
- Distinguishing professional development and experience
- A unique and rare opportunity to have a profound impact on campus while participating in a selective, new initiative by a highly reputed organization
- An opportunity to network with prominent members of the Jewish community, local campus leaders, and other JIMENA Interns
- A \$200 Stipend awarded in two \$100 installments (Potential to earn more should additional funding opportunities arise)