



The SUNY Office of International Programs and the SUNY Cobleskill Office of International Education  
present

~ INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK, November 12–16 ~  
Guest Speaker

**RAIF SHWAYRI, CEO of Al-Kafaàt Foundation**

**2012-13 SUNY John W. Ryan Fellow for International Education**

Speaking on the role of education in developing stability in the Middle East, Mr. Shwayri will chronicle the history of Al-Kafaàt Foundation in fostering change in Lebanon with regard to accessible services and education for special needs students, as well as the socially and economically disadvantaged. His thought-provoking presentation will address the importance of international education and its impact on global development and the building and maintaining of a civil society.

Raif Shwayri is the CEO of Al-Kafaàt Foundation. Al-Kafaàt was started in 1957 to serve the disabled and socially disadvantaged populations in Lebanon. Today, the Al-Kafaàt Foundation serves over 5,000 students daily through seven specialized centers, focused on education and social welfare of the Lebanese people. In addition, the foundation houses Al-Kafaàt University (AKU), a modern institution of higher education strongly committed to student access and the relevance of higher education to today's economy.



Mr. Shwayri and Al-Kafaàt Foundation began a partnership with SUNY over two years ago on the Broader Middle East and North Africa (BMENA) Entrepreneurship Grant through Higher Education for Development (HED) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID). At its outset, the partnership included four SUNY community colleges: Nassau, North Country, Monroe and Onondaga. In collaboration with SUNY Global, additional activities, including partners from various SUNY campuses, have been incorporated. For more information please visit: [SUNY Partnership with Al-Kafaàt Foundation](#).

**John W. Ryan Fellowship for International Education**

The John W. Ryan Fellowship for International Education is awarded by the State University of New York to a prominent scholar, leader or practitioner whose contribution to international education is exemplary. Fellows engage with the university in varying areas of specialization, each making a unique contribution to the core principle of the fellowship: international education can profoundly impact relationships among nations and our world as a whole.

The fellowship was established in honor of Chancellor Emeritus John W. Ryan in 2004 and continues in his memory.