



Contact:

Rebecca Berman, American Councils for International Education, (202) 833-7522, nsliy@americancouncils.org
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State, (202) 632-6452, eca-press@state.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rock Island Student to Study Arabic in Morocco on U.S. Department of State NSLI-Y Scholarship

Clare VanSpeybroeck, a recent graduate of Alleman High School in Rock Island, Illinois, has been awarded a National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) scholarship for 2018-19 by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Clare will study Arabic in Morocco for the Summer.

Clare, competitively selected out of over 3,300 applications from across the United States, is one of approximately 670 students who will study Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Persian, Indonesian or Russian overseas this coming year. While in Morocco, Clare will receive formal language instruction, live with a host family and experience the local culture as part of an immersion environment.

The NSLI-Y program is part of a multi-agency U.S. Government initiative launched in 2006 to improve Americans' ability to communicate in select critical languages to advance international dialogue and increase American economic global competitiveness. The goals of the NSLI-Y program include: promoting critical language learning among American youth; enhancing cross-cultural understanding and deepening trust; sparking a lifetime of interest in foreign language and culture; and developing the skills to advance international dialogue, compete effectively in the global marketplace, promote mutual understanding, and contribute to a more peaceful world.

Clare states, "My interest in learning Arabic was sparked last summer when I volunteered at English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. I witnessed individuals from numerous countries all communicating together in Arabic. After attending the University of Illinois Global Studies Workshop, I decided to apply for the NSLI-Y scholarship."

In the fall, Clare will attend DePaul University in Chicago and major in International Studies and minor in Spanish, Arabic, and Community Service Studies.

NSLI-Y is administered by American Councils for International Education in cooperation with AFS-USA, American Cultural Exchange Service, AMIDEAST, iEARN-USA, the Russian American Foundation, Stony Brook University, the University of Delaware, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and the University of Wisconsin.

Applications for 2019-20 NSLI-Y programs are expected to be available at www.nsliforyouth.org in the late summer. For information about all U.S. Department of State exchange programs for American high school students, visit <https://exchanges.state.gov/highschool>.

