



SCHOLARSHIP WINNER FOCUSED ON FATA REGION OF PAKISTAN University of Utah Freshman's Timely 'Topic' and 'ProblemSolver'

For Release 9/8/09

Contact press@ourvoiceourcountry.org

Kelsey Price has won www.ourvoiceourcountry.org's 2009 Summer Scholarship Competition, which was open to incoming freshmen at any accredited college in the USA. She plans to spend the \$1,000 prize on tuition at University of Utah next semester.

Check out Kelsey's video regarding the competition, which she wrote and directed, at the YouTube channel OVOCTV. www.youtube.com/watch?v=avJtHRrmwU8

Between June 15th and August 17th, 564 students from every state in the Country posted concise, articulate descriptions of what they observe to be urgent national problems. They also proposed achievable solutions or nominated experts in the field, able to effectively address each problem. During that time, over 47,000 visited the site.

In her entry, Kelsey identified instability in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) region of Pakistan as an urgent problem for America, and Dr. Hassan Abbas as a 'ProblemSolver' who could articulate an achievable solution. [His 10 point plan and the whole winning entry is attached.](#) The FATA region is central in the current debate among US military and government leaders regarding the war in Afghanistan.

Our Voice Our Country founder/board president Jon Mann says "Congratulations to Kelsey Price! She is a bright young lady, and we're glad to have provided a platform for her insight and work to be recognized. The clarity of her entry and its timely relevance demonstrates the need ourvoiceourcountry.org will be filling when we start our full process in 2010 -- enabling the 'common sense' of everyday Americans and experts whose solutions they support (such as Dr. Abbas) to guide our representatives in D.C."

Kelsey found Dr. Hassan Abbas by researching experts in the field with solid experience and knowledge in the problem area (referred to as a 'Topic' at ourvoiceourcountry.org).

Dr. Abbas is a Bernard Schwartz Fellow at the Asia Society in New York. Hassan was a Research Fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government from 2005 to August 2009. He is a Fellow at the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU), Michigan, and an Associate of the Pakistan Security Research Unit (PSRU) at University of Bradford in England. Dr. Abbas' research interests are nuclear proliferation, religious extremism in South and Central Asia, and relations between Muslims and the West.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNER FOCUSED ON FATA REGION OF PAKISTAN University of Utah Freshman's Timely 'Topic' and 'ProblemSolver'

For Release 9/8/09

Contact press@ourvoiceourcountry.org or (914) 772-0472

PAGE TWO

Dr. Abbas describes this competition as “a very creative way to involve students and encourage them to think about critical issues faced by the United States in the domestic as well as international arena.” He goes on to say “I commend Kelsey Price for (choosing) a comparatively difficult topic and then analyzing all major aspects of the issue in a concise manner. The website and the idea behind the initiative is great and worth supporting indeed.”

Dr. Abbas worked in what he describes as ‘a mid-level job’ in the Chief of Staff’s office for former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (1994-95). Then in 1996, he joined the Police Service as a sub-divisional police officer (comparable to a Police Chief here). In 1998 Abbas left to study in England, then returned when offered a post in the Musharraf administration at the National Accountability Bureau - a new institution created to root out corrupt bureaucrats and politicians. When he became disappointed with the Musharraf government’s policies and lack of democratic values, Dr. Abbas quit government service and came to the US to teach and pursue further studies.

Kelsey’s thoughtful and timely entry was chosen over 563 others posted at www.ourvoiceourcountry.org/participate/recommend-topic-rate.aspx this summer, coming in from every state in America. Judges included: *Jim Ramstad, House Republican from Minnesota (1990-2008), Mindy Fullilove, noted author, researcher and professor at Columbia U. Brian Nickerson, Dean at Iona College and a Public Policy expert*

A new Fall Scholarship Competition will be announced later this month.

www.ourvoiceourcountry.org provides the opportunity for all Americans to express their concerns, gives visibility to those ready to provide answers, and to see ‘what flies’ in the court of public opinion. The site went online in February, 2009 and was a featured presenter at The National Civic Summit in Minneapolis this past July.

Our Voice Our Country was developed over the past 6 years, with input and guidance from Walter Cronkite, Ruby Dee, Joanne Woodward, Yolanda King, Jane Alexander, judges, professors, lawyers, students, senior citizens, soldiers, current and retired politicians, leaders of national non-partisan organizations and dozens of blue and white collar workers of all political parties and beliefs, from across the Country.

"this is indeed the right time for the voice of the people to be heard, the will of the people to be done, and for Americans to become an informed electorate." Walter Cronkite



**SCHOLARSHIP WINNER FOCUSED ON FATA REGION OF PAKISTAN
University of Utah Freshman's Timely 'Topic' and 'ProblemSolver'**

For Release 9/8/09

Contact press@ourvoiceourcountry.org

PAGE THREE

Made possible with funding from Yudelson and Patricia Brooks Foundations, and by donations individual supporters. Special Thanks to our outreach partner Center for Civic Education and for outreach assistance from Fastweb, Zinch and Campus Compact.