



Sharing the Knowledge

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Senior Service College Fellowship (SSCF) program graduated its inaugural class of eight fellows, including SEC's own Medhat Abuhantash, during a recent ceremony at the APG Top of the Bay.

“This was a life-changing opportunity for me, both professionally and personally” said Abuhantash. “I am so glad I work for an organization that not only embraces continuing education but makes it a priority in leadership development.”

The Defense Acquisition University developed the ten month SSCF program to provide leadership training for civilians, GS-14 and above, to prepare them for critical senior acquisition leadership roles.

Focused on core elements including acquisition leadership, personal leadership, global leadership, research, program management and national security, the program also provided opportunities for the fellows to interact with both government and private industry via on-site visits and workshops, as well as with executive-level guest speakers from throughout government and industry.

“The speakers brought a unique and important perspective to the program” said Abuhantash. “I found their insights into the DoD acquisition environment extremely helpful as well as the stories about their life experiences. It really brought home for me the importance of a balance between family and career.”

In addition to learning from the speakers, attendees were encouraged to find mentors. “I was lucky to have access to Mr. Keeler as a mentor. His insights and candid dialogues throughout the ten months provided me with a strong support system and strategic direction” said Abuhantash. “He always stressed the importance of leadership in managing people saying ‘Your people are important and if you treat them with dignity and respect, they will give you their best.’”

The SSCF program's curriculum works to develop a broad understanding of the defense acquisition process along with the effects acquisition policies and practices have on America's national industrial base, economic well being, security strategy and global security markets.

APG'S SENIOR SERVICE COLLEGE FELLOWSHIP

“This program certainly broadened my perspective and helped develop my ability to think strategically, critically and creatively” said Abuhantash. “I would encourage anyone who is interested in a senior leadership career path to consider SSCF. It was a wonderful and life-changing experience and I look forward to implementing what I have learned in my job as Director of Software Support Services Directorate.

In addition to the SSCF diploma, Abuhantash also received certificates for the Program Managers Course, (PMT 401), Leading in the Acquisition Environment, (ACQ 450), Integrated Acquisition for Decision Makers,(ACQ 451) and Forging Stakeholder Relationships(ACQ 452).

This month, Steve Cooper from Field Support Directorate will begin the APG SSCF program.



Final note from Abuhantash:

“One cannot complete a program as intense as this one is without the love and support of their family. I will be forever thankful to my wife, who is a saint, and my children, who are troopers, for going through this experience with me after just moving across the country to our new home in Maryland.”

