

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IALC Re-names Peace Fellowship Program in Memory of Wayne Owens

May 9, 2003 – Tucson, AZ – The International Arid Lands Consortium board voted unanimously to rename its Peace Fellowship Program to honor the late Congressman Wayne Owens and his commitment to Middle East peace.

Mr. Owens served in Congress for eight years representing Utah's 2nd Congressional District where he was a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and a strong supporter of Middle East peace. Mr. Owens was co-founder and President of the Center for Middle East Peace and Economic Cooperation, which promoted the peace process and helped build economic interaction between Israel and its neighbors. An attorney, Mr. Owens had a working relationship with nearly all of the leaders in the Middle East and became known as an honest peacemaker who took unprecedented steps toward mediation.

"This successful research program will be a tribute to the ongoing peace efforts that Mr. Owens worked towards through education and mutual respect for all parties involved," said Dr. Foster.

The IALC Wayne Owens Peace Fellowship Program was created to benefit U.S. and Middle East environment and society, in keeping with the IALC's goal of supporting and researching methods of ecologically sound desert management. The program promotes opportunities for outstanding undergraduate and graduate students to conduct arid lands research and contribute to the Middle East Peace process.

Selected students from IALC member institutions spend one month or more working in the field with eminent scientists on projects sponsored by the Consortium. This exchange between American universities and researchers in the Middle East fosters an environment in which young people can grow intellectually and contribute to understanding among Israeli, Arab, and U.S. participants. Students are expected to conduct their research in a country other than their home country. Graduate students will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

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The International Arid Lands Consortium (IALC) is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to exploring the problems and solutions unique to arid and semiarid regions. IALC promotes cooperative research and practical application of new knowledge to develop sustainable ecological practices. The member institutions share a mission to enable people of arid lands to improve the quality of life for future generations. IALC members include the University of Arizona, Desert Research Institute – Nevada, Higher Council for Science & Technology – Jordan, The University of Illinois, Jewish National Fund, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation – Egypt, New Mexico State University, South Dakota State University, and Texas A&M University-Kingsville.