

24TH ANNUAL ISNA EDUCATION FORUM

IN COLLABORATION WITH CISNA



Raising Our Ranks – Enriching Students' Lives

May 12 – 14, 2023 ♦ Marriott O'Hare

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PROGRAM



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24th Annual ISNA Education Forum

May 12-14, 2023

Marriott Chicago O'Hare, 8535 W Higgins Rd, Chicago, IL 60631

Raising Our Ranks – Enriching Students' Lives

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Friday, May 12, 2023

Central Time (CDT)	Session Type	Tracks, Topics and Presenters		
		Arabic	Qur'an	Leadership Admin/Board
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM		REGISTRATION FOR PRECONFERENCES (Preconference Registration is SEPERATE from Ed. Forum Registration)		
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Preconferences	Brain-Friendly Assessment Practices for Teachers of Arabic <i>Jomana Wilson, Salah Ayari</i> <i>Room: Chicago Ballroom ABC</i>	The Effective Qur'an Class (Recitation and Tafseer Workshop) <i>Dalia El-Deeb</i> <i>Room: River</i>	Strengthening the Principal and Board Partnership <i>Leila Shatara, Magda Saleh, William White</i> <i>Room: Chicago Ballroom FG</i>
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Lunch & Prayer Break	Jumu'ah Prayer at 1:15 PM Khateeb: Sh. Abdalla Idris Ali, Former ISNA President <i>Room: O'hare Ballroom Terminal 5</i>		
5:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Prayer Break	Asr Prayer <i>Room: O'hare Ballroom Terminal 5</i>		
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM		Inauguration Banquet Dinner <i>Room: Grand Ballroom 4</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Qur'an Recitation ➤ Welcome Remarks: Basharat Saleem, ISNA Executive Director ➤ Program Overview: Azra Naqvi, Program Committee Chair ➤ Welcome Remarks: Leila Shatara, CISNA President ➤ Keynote Speaker Introduction: Safaa Zarzour, ISNA President ➤ Keynote Speech: Habeeb Quadri, MCAA Superintendent Moderator: Mukhtar Ahmad, ISNA Programs Head		
8:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Prayer Break	Maghrib Prayer <i>Room: O'hare Ballroom Terminal 5</i>		

Central Time (CDT)	Session Type	Tracks, Topics and Presenters			
		Arabic & Quran Track Leader: <i>Salah Ayari</i>	Islamic Studies Track Leader: <i>Abir Catovic</i>	Curriculum & Instruction Track Leader: <i>Majida Abdul-Karim</i>	Leadership Admin/Board Track Leader: <i>Leila Shatara</i>
8:30 PM -10:00 PM	Parallel Sessions	1A Seerah: Thematic Analysis, Inquiry and Reflection (In English) Assad Koshul Mutazz Alabd <i>Room: Chicago ABC</i>	1B The Monarch Unit Companion Series Leila Osman <i>Room: Salon 8-6</i>	1C Designing Your Dream Weekend School WISER Team (Weekend Islamic Schools Education Resources) <i>Room: River</i>	1D Hacking Educator Burnout: Best Practices for Educators from Prophetic Tradition and Positive Intelligence Talaat Pasha <i>Room: Chicago Ballroom FG</i>

Saturday, May 13, 2023

Central Time (CDT)	Session Type	Tracks, Topics and Presenters			
		Arabic	Islamic Studies	Curriculum & Instruction	Leadership Admin/ Board
7:45 AM - 8:45 AM		Networking Breakfast <i>Room: Main Ballroom</i>			
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Parallel Sessions	2A Communicative Activities for Enhancing Arabic Proficiency (In Arabic) Luluah Mustafa <i>Room: Chicago ABC</i>	2B The Unity Production Foundation Films Through Critical Inquiry Nada Wafa Farea Khan Susan Douglass <i>Room: Salon 8-6</i>	2C Behavior Intervention through Islamic Psychology Wadud Hassan <i>Room: River</i>	2D Leading with Compassion Magda Saleh Leila Shatara <i>Room: Chicago Ballroom FG</i>
10:45 AM - 12:15 PM	Parallel Sessions	3A Annual Qur'an Calendar – From Reading to Comprehension! (In English) Abir Catovic <i>Room: Chicago ABC</i>	3B The Need for Health Education from the Islamic Perspective Amber Khan <i>Room: Salon 8-6</i>	3C Evocative Teaching with Non-Violent Communication Bethsaida Garrido Jimenez Magda Saleh <i>Room: River</i>	3D What's Missing from Islamic School Reforms? Culturally Responsive School Leadership Practice Muhammad Khalifa <i>Room: Chicago Ballroom FG</i>
12:20 PM - 1:35 PM	Luncheon in Grand Ballroom 4	Education Forum Luncheon ➤ Qur'an Recitation ➤ Keynote Address: Imperatives of Education-The Islamic Perspective: Kareem Irfan, ISNA Vice President ➤ Guest Speaker: Kathy Garms, Ameer Abdelkadir Education Project (AEP) Co-Founder & Executive Director ➤ CISNA Updates: Leila Shatara, CISNA President Moderator: Basharat Saleem, ISNA Executive Director			
1:40 PM - 1:55 PM	Prayer Break	Dhuhr Prayer 1:40 PM - 1:55 PM <i>Room: O'hare Ballroom Terminal 5</i>			
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Parallel Sessions	4A Student Journeys with the AAPPL and Global Seal of Biliteracy Jomana Wilson <i>Room: Chicago ABC</i>	4B Teaching for Better Brains and Healthy Learners Susan Labadi <i>Room: Salon 8-6</i>	4C Teaching Digital Natives in an In-Person World Eamaan Rabbat <i>Room: River</i>	4D Becoming a Reflective Practitioner to Enrich the Lives of Students Suad Islam <i>Room: Chicago Ballroom FG</i>

Central Time (CDT)	Session Type	Tracks, Topics and Presenters			
		Arabic	Islamic Studies	Curriculum & Instruction	Leadership Admin/ Board
3:45 PM - 5:15 PM	Parallel Sessions	5A Modern Interactive Methods for Teaching Qur'an (In English) Ahmad Alsheikhi <i>Room: Chicago ABC</i>	5B Teaching About Care for the Natural World, Environment and Climate Saffet Catovic <i>Room: Salon 8-6</i>	5C Special Education Praxis and Pedagogy for Islamic School Classrooms Omaira Alam <i>Room: River</i>	5D Handbook Writing Workshop Reem Abdelrazek Abir Catovic Safaa Zarzour Nadeem Siddiqui <i>Room: Chicago Ballroom FG</i>
5:15 PM - 5:30 PM	Prayer Break	Asr Prayer <i>Room: O'hare Ballroom Terminal 5</i>			
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM		Celebration Banquet and Award Ceremony <i>Grand Ballroom 4</i> ➤ Qur'an Recitation ➤ Welcome Remarks: Safaa Zarzour, ISNA President ➤ Lifetime Service Award Presented to Susan Labadi ➤ Keynote Speech: Nabeela Syed, First Muslim and Youngest-Ever Member of the Illinois State Legislature ➤ ISNA And You: Sh. Abdalla Idris Ali, Former ISNA President ➤ Student Presentations and More Moderator: Magda Elkadi Saleh, Former ISNA Vice President			
8:00 PM - 8:15 PM	Prayer Break	Maghrib Prayer <i>Room: O'hare Ballroom Terminal 5</i>			
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Leadership Session	CISNA Elections and General Assembly <i>(Hosted by The Council of Islamic Schools of North America)</i> <i>Room: Chicago Ballroom ABC</i>			

Sunday, May 14, 2023

Central Time (CDT)	Session Type	Tracks, Topics and Presenters
9:00 AM - 10:15 AM	General Session	6A Uplifting the Mental Health and Well-Being of Our Muslim Youth Speakers: <i>Mustafa Ghafoor, Ibrahim Sablaban, Urooj Yazdani</i> Room: <i>Chicago Ballroom ABC</i>
9:00 AM - 10:15 AM	General Session	6B General Session: Meeting with Experts Room: <i>River</i>
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Concluding Session	Concluding Session: Share Your Feedback and Win Prizes! <i>A very exciting and engaging program with EF Program Team</i> Room: <i>Chicago Ballroom ABC</i>

Session Details

Friday, May 12, 2023

Session Time	Topic and Session Info
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Preconferences (Separate registration required)
	Room: Chicago ABC Ballroom Brain-Friendly Assessment Practices for Teachers of Arabic: Jomana Wilson, Salah Ayari See detailed information on the workshop on page #27
	Room: River The Effective Qur'an Class: Dalia El-Deeb See detailed information on the workshop on page #28
	Room: Chicago Ballroom FG Strengthening the Principal and Board Partnership: Leila Shatara, Magda Saleh, William White See detailed information on the workshop on page #29
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Inauguration Banquet Dinner
	Room: Grand Ballroom 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Qur'an Recitation ➤ Welcome Remarks: Basharat Saleem, ISNA Executive Director ➤ Program Overview: Azra Naqvi, Program Committee Chair ➤ Welcome Remarks: Leila Shatara, CISNA President ➤ Keynote Speaker Introduction: Safaa Zarzour, ISNA President ➤ Keynote Speech: Habeeb Quadri, MCCA Superintendent Moderator: Mukhtar Ahmad, ISNA Programs Head
8:30 PM - 10:00 PM	Parallel Sessions: Series I
	Session 1A Room: Chicago Ballroom ABC Seerah: Thematic Analysis, Inquiry and Reflection: Assad Koshul, Mutazz Alabd Schools have a need for organized, in-depth, contextualized and engaging learning materials. To maximize comprehension and contextualization, the format must be engaging and relevant. Our curriculum is built on a "four cylinders process": Spiritual Renewal, Moral Values, Mental Clarity, and Community Enrichment. We built lesson plans utilizing the 30-episode MBC series "Omar RA" securing it as the "textbook". For each scene, we conduct situational and thematic analysis to attain a deeper understanding of the Seerah.
	Session 1B Room: Salon 8-6 The Monarch Unit Companion Series: Leila Osman The Monarch curriculum is a unique approach for educators to bring a breath of fresh air into their Islamic Studies classroom. These courses have been designed from the miraculous transformation of metamorphosis: the journey from egg to butterfly. We have applied the stages of metamorphosis as an analogy for the kind of growth we hope to inspire. The learning stages are designed to guide participants to a holistic and deep understanding of the Companion stories.

Session Time	Topic and Session Info
Session 1C <i>Room: River</i> Designing Your Dream Weekend School WISER Team	<p>Many of our children in America learn about their Creator and His book, the Qur'an, from their weekend schools. Muslim children develop their Islamic identity and build life-long relationships in their weekend schools. You can make a dream school with a supportive board, a model principal, loving teachers, and a developmentally appropriate curriculum that creates an ideal learning environment for curious learners. We will explore how to create a dream weekend school with participants.</p>
Session 1D <i>Room: Chicago Ballroom FG</i> Hacking Educator Burnout: Best Practices for Educators from Prophetic Tradition and Positive Intelligence: Talaat Pasha	<p>This presentation brings easy-to-do practical techniques from the Prophetic tradition and from modern Positive Intelligence research (Chamine 2012) to empower educators' mindset. Strengthening brain muscles will help educators to 1) improve their ability to think critically, solve problems, and manage stress, 2) shift focus away from negative thoughts to positive ones, 3) develop a growth mindset and embrace challenges as opportunities for growth and development, and 4) manage their emotions and relationships with others.</p>

Saturday, May 13, 2023

Session Time	Topic and Session Info
7:45 AM - 8:45 AM	Networking Session
<i>Room: Main Ballroom</i> Networking Breakfast & a Short Presentation from Salman Khan	
Networking Breakfast (<i>Main Ballroom</i>) Short presentations and an opportunity to network with forum participants....	
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Parallel Sessions: Series II
Session 2A Room: Chicago ABC Communicative Activities for Enhancing Arabic Proficiency (In Arabic): Luluah Mustafa	
In this workshop, participants will learn how to determine the objectives of each activity and design communicative activities that align with ACTFL standards. Through hands-on practice and guidance, participants will be able to create effective activities that foster language proficiency and cultural understanding. The workshop's outcomes include an understanding of the importance of clear activity objectives, the ability to design activities that align with ACTFL standards, and the development of a toolkit of effective strategies.	
Session 2B Room: Salon 8-6 The Unity Production Foundation Films Through Critical Inquiry: Nada Wafa, Farea Khan, Susan Douglass	
The mission of the Unity Production Foundation (UPF) is to create documentaries, films, and educational materials that help bring to light the compelling stories of Muslim engagement through history and culture. The UPF films are a powerful inspirational digital tool for teachers. Participants will be inspired to utilize inquiry and deliberations and contribute to the expansion of media to promote peace and understanding to increase cultural pluralism and spread factual truth to counter bigotry in our world.	
Session 2C Room: River Behavior Intervention through Islamic Psychology: Wadud Hassan	
Success in Islam is attained by the purification of the heart and soul. The understanding of our identity and purpose and the alignment of that with divine guidance and the Sunnah of the Prophet (S.) are the keys to transformation. The Islamic Psychology of behavioral transformation is rooted in experiential deen that children can feel and apply. This workshop will teach methods of self-awareness and self-regulation rooted in experiencing Allah, and His love and mercy.	
Session 2D Room: Chicago Ballroom FG Leading with Compassion: Magda Saleh, Leila Shatara	
The school leader is responsible for looking within, looking outward and driving the school forward. A principal or Head of School must be a leader and a manager, one who is a visionary who inspires and at the same time, one who manages an institution efficiently and systematically. What does it take to be both? It begins with understanding that as a leader, one is ultimately responsible and accountable to Allah (SWT).	
10:45 AM - 12:15 AM	Parallel Sessions: Series III
Session 3A Room: Chicago ABC Annual Qur'an Calendar – From Reading to Comprehension! (In English): Abir Catovic	
The prophetic directive: "Read the Qur'an for truly it will act as an intercessor for its companions on the Day of Resurrection", should compel schools to produce "Companions of the Qur'an"! The Qur'an Calendar that assigns daily reading beginning in elementary school while incorporating age-appropriate puzzles allows students to develop fluency, become accustomed to the routine of Qur'an reading and practice the skills to make them adept translators by the conclusion of high school.	

Saturday, May 13, 2023

Session Time	Topic and Session Info
Session 3B Room: Salon 8-6	
The Need for Health Education from the Islamic Perspective: Amber Khan	
	Health education that centers the Muslim narrative is the basis of Amber Khan's level book series, Health & Wellness from the Islamic Perspective. In this session, Sister Amber will explain how teaching health from the Islamic perspective in our schools can serve as a preventative intervention through teaching Muslim youth how to prioritize their overall well-being, practice Islam with confidence, and be less likely to engage in risky behavior.
Session 3C Room: River	
Evocative Teaching with Non-Violent Communication: Bethsaida Garrido Jimenez, Magda Saleh	
	Non-Violent Communication is an evocative language that needs to be placed first within our classrooms. It helps us eradicate our defensiveness and aggression towards students and colleagues, and allows us to welcome compassionate and empathetic communication. A safe environment conducive to learning and building community is established through four steps: "1) sharing an observation without judgment, 2) expressing feelings, 3) connecting those feelings to needs, and 4) making requests of others." (Koopman and Seliga, 2021)
Session 3D Room: Chicago Ballroom FG	
What's Missing from Islamic School Reforms? Culturally Responsive School Leadership Practice: Muhammad Khalifa	
	Culturally responsive school leadership (CRSL) has become important to research on culturally responsive education, reform, and social justice education. This comprehensive review provides a framework for the expanding body of literature that seeks to make not only teaching, but rather the entire school environment, responsive to the schooling needs of minoritized students. Join us in a discussion where we clarify aspects of CRSL and reflect on its continued promise and implications.
12:30 PM - 1:45 PM	Luncheon - Banquet Hall Room: Grand Ballroom 4
Education Forum Luncheon Program	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Qur'an Recitation ➤ Keynote Address: Imperatives of Education-The Islamic Perspective: Kareem Irfan, ISNA Vice President ➤ Guest Speaker: Kathy Garms, Co-Founder & Exec. Director Abdelkader Education Project ➤ CISNA Updates: Leila Shatara, CISNA President 	
Moderator: Basharat Saleem, ISNA Executive Director	
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Parallel Sessions: Series IV
Session 4A Room: Chicago ABC	
Student Journeys with the AAPPL Test and Global Seal of Biliteracy: Jomana Wilson	
	This presentation demonstrates the alignment of the AAPPL test as a key instrument and the Global Seal of Biliteracy as a motivational tool for student success in learning Arabic as well as a credential that enhances college and career opportunities. The presenter will demonstrate how to direct student learning on a sample lesson in order to improve achievement. Attendees will gain practice analyzing student data and directing their own instruction to best support student growth.
Session 4B Room: Salon 8-6	
Teaching for Better Brains and Healthy Learners: Susan Labadi	
	Beyond improving academic excellence, schools facilitate skills, social, and character development in students. However, doing that is increasingly complex, as evidenced by rising mental health issues, obesity, hyperactivity, and decreasing attention span. Acquiring brain health knowledge and teaching this to your parents and students can benefit every school. Gather insights and strategies which align brain health with prophetic pedagogy; it's a winning combination!

Session Time	Topic and Session Info
Session 4C Room: River Teaching Digital Natives in an In-Person World: Eamaan Rabbat	Our students are natives in the digital world. Engaging learners and connecting with students is an art that every teacher must master, and effective teaching methods will be unique to every generation. This workshop will address the needs of today's students and ways that educators can utilize technology to not only meet those needs, but to leave students with a sense of belonging in their classrooms and enthusiasm for learning.
Session 4D Room: Chicago Ballroom FG Becoming a Reflective Practitioner to Enrich the Lives of Students: Suad Islam	In pluralistic societies, holistic pedagogical processes are needed. To this end, I have incorporated psycho-educational techniques across my practice. Central to this are professional reflective thinking strategies. I have modeled, coached and anchored reflective thinking as a contextualized leadership and instructional methodology for educators. Incorporating Reflective Thought in schools has been quantitatively and qualitatively positively evidenced by: Creating school ethos of belonging, school families' wellness, improved standardized assessments results and enhanced school-based performance data.
3:45 PM - 5:15 PM	Parallel Sessions: Series V
Session 5A Room: Chicago ABC Modern Interactive Methods for Teaching Qur'an: Ahmad Alsheikhi	Our current generation needs modern methods for teaching Qur'an using new hands-on sensory, auditory and visual techniques that engage the students' minds, no matter the age, while meeting their individual needs and filling in the gaps of older teaching styles. The proposed curriculum has been successfully implemented in numerous Qur'an programs and full-time Islamic schools throughout the United States and Europe.
Session 5B Room: Salon 8-6 Teaching About Care for the Natural World, Environment and Climate: Saffet Catovic	Human caused (anthropomorphic) climate change is real. It has upset the natural balance and order (Mizan) and impacts and threatens all life (including our own) on Earth. It especially impacts the most vulnerable who have contributed the least to greenhouse gas emissions and global warming. Human beings as Khulafa al-ard, the caretakers/guardians of the Earth and its resources, have a sacred trust (Amanah) to stop the harm and work together toward climate and justice solutions.
Session 5C Room: River Special Education Praxis and Pedagogy for Islamic School Classrooms: Omaira Alam	This workshop session provides a general overview of inexpensive and accessible techniques for Muslim school teachers and educators to better address the needs of all students. Although designed specifically for neurodivergent students, these simple methods, when implemented in a classroom, can enrich the overall learning environment for all students. NOTE: Participants are encouraged to bring samples of their worksheets, favorite graphic organizers, activities, and lesson plans to enhance the workshop discussion.
Session 5D Room: Chicago Ballroom FG Handbook Writing Workshop: Reem Abdelrazek, Abir Catovic, Safaa Zarzour, Nadeem Siddiqui	Do you have a policy for the selection of books and media? How about guidelines on talking about LGBTQ+? A policy for grounds for dismissal or expulsion? There must be reason and evidence to support policies and guidelines. School leaders will benefit from the experience and expertise of the session facilitators as well as from each other. Come prepared with your current handbooks and laptops and leave with guidance, suggestions and updated handbooks.

Saturday, May 13, 2023

Session Time	Topic and Session Info
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Celebration Banquet <i>Room: Grand Ballroom 4</i>
<i>Celebration Banquet and Award Ceremony</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Qur'an Recitation ➤ Welcome Remarks: Safaa Zarzour, ISNA President ➤ Lifelong Service Award Presented to Susan Labadi ➤ Keynote Speech: Nabeela Syed, First Muslim and Youngest-Ever Member of the Illinois State Legislature ➤ ISNA And You: Sh. Abdalla Idris Ali, Former ISNA President ➤ Student Presentations and More Moderator: Magda Elkadi Saleh, Former ISNA Vice President	
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Leadership Session <i>Room: Chicago Ballroom ABC</i>
CISNA Elections and General Assembly	

Sunday, May 14, 2023

Session Time	Topic and Session Info
9:00 AM - 10:15 AM	General Session
Session 6A Room: Chicago Ballroom ABC "Why Aren't They Listening to Me?": How to Identify and Address Mental Health Issues in Muslim Youth Mustafa Ghafoor, Ibrahim Sablaban, Urooj Yazdani (AMHP Experts)	
The American Muslim experience, while dynamic, always comes with unique sets of complexities that vary in different communities. Muslim youth are challenged with the task of deciphering an external environment that is often in conflict with the set of values they are expected to embrace as Muslims. This session will explore how such challenges can develop into psychiatric illness, substance use, and leave young Muslims struggling to find an identity. The panelists will discuss vignettes about the cases they see trends in mental health and their own experiences as American Muslims, leading into an audience driven question and answer session.	
Session 6B Room: River Meet the Experts & Get Your Questions Answered	
Islamic School teachers and administrators face many challenges in performing their duties and responsibilities. Come to see the seasoned educators and experts to find solutions for your problems and challenges.	
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Concluding Session
Room: Chicago Ballroom ABC Networking & Concluding Session	
<i>A very exciting and engaging program with Education Forum Program Team and Organizers. Also participate in the raffle to win prizes and gifts.</i>	

Speakers Bios A-Z By Last Name

Ziad Abdulla



Ziad Abdulla is the Principal at The Huda Academy, Little Rock, Arkansas. He obtained his bachelor's degree in jurisprudence, a Diploma in Education

Rehabilitation from the University of Jordan and he received his Master's in Education with a Valedictorian Award from Al-Albays University, Jordan. The 2021-2022 school year marks his 30th year as an Educator, twelve years in school administration and 18 years as an Islamic Studies, Qur'an and Arabic teacher. He is also a member of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD).

Majida Abdul-Karim

Majida Abdul-Karim has dedicated her professional career to the empowerment and education of children and families. Activism, advocacy, and education have been her path of purpose for over 25 years.

An educator for nearly three decades, Majida is the Founder and Principal Consultant of Majida Abdul-Karim Educational Consultancy LLC. She also serves as the Board Chair for the Georgia Muslim Voter Project, is the curriculum team leader for the Consultative Board of Mohammed Schools of Atlanta the first accredited Muslim School in Georgia and is a member of the Sister Clara Mohammed National Schools Network. Majida also serves as review team member with COGNIA, a national and global non-profit agency that grants schools certification and accreditation.



Reem Abdelrazek



Reem Abdelrazek is the principal of Annoor Academy. She began her career as a legislative intern for the Tennessee House Education Committee while pursuing her

Master of Public Administration degree. She went on to work in state legislative research and moved to the district level where she worked with principals, instructional coaches, and teachers to analyze student accountability data and value-added data, as well as conduct program evaluations for the third largest district in Tennessee.

Omaira Alam

Omaira Alam is an executive function coach, educator, researcher and consultant. She has over twenty years of experience in various educational settings as principal, board member, and teacher trainer, along with experience with the US Department of State, MUHSEN, and the Islamic Teacher Education Program. She developed Dignified Way, a behavior management program harnessing Prophetic Pedagogy and a whole school approach. Omaira Alam currently teaches Sunday School at the ADAMS Center in northern Virginia.



Abdalla Idris Ali



Abdalla Idris Ali is the former president of ISNA. He founded the first full-time Islamic school in Toronto, Canada. He served as the principal of ISNA Islamic Community School for 17 years. He also served on

ISNA's Executive Council (Majlis Ash-Shura) and the Youth and Education Committee. He has served as the Chair of the Islamic Media Foundation, a member of the NAIT Board,

a founding member of CISNA, and the Chair of the ISNA Education Forum. Sheikh Abdalla was appointed Director for CIENA in Kansas City, Missouri. He served on the board of trustees of IBERR, which serves minority communities. He is currently associated with ISNA Canada.

Sheikh Ahmad Alsheikhi



Ahmad Alsheikhi is a certified Qur'an instructor who is the principal of the Qur'an Institute at the Mecca Center. He has over 28 years of experience teaching students of all ages and backgrounds. He has been Imam for Taraweeh prayers at the Northwest Indiana Islamic Center since 2004. He is the author of the Bidaya book series for the instruction of proper Qur'an recitation and the supervisor of the Sahib al-Quran memorization and comprehension program.

Mutazz Alabd

Mutazz Alabd is the Arabic Department Chair at Universal School in Bridgeview, Illinois. He has a BA in English Islamic Studies from Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt. He also earned a master's degree in applied linguistics from the American University in Cairo, Egypt. In 2020, Mr. Alabd received the University of Chicago Outstanding Educator Award.



Salah Ayari



Dr. Salah Ayari is currently Instructional Professor of Arabic and the Director of Language Instruction in the Department of Global Languages and Cultures at Texas A & M University. He has taught Arabic at all levels since 1994. While leading short- and long-term study abroad programs for more than 10 years, Dr. Ayari has conducted research on the impact of studying Arabic in an immersion environment on student language growth and intercultural competence. He has conducted

over 30 site visits to K–12 schools with different models of Arabic language programs for program evaluation and improvement. His areas of interest include curriculum development, evidence-based teaching practices, study abroad, and language assessment.

Abir Catovic



Abir Catovic is a board member of WISER. She is one of the founders of her local Islamic School, and she prides herself in having taught every grade level from KG through twelfth grade. She has served as Director of Religious Studies, Vice Principal, and Principal. Abir was voted one of the top three Islamic educators in North America in 2017 and she received the New Jersey State Governor's Jefferson Award in Education in 2021.

Saffet Catovic



Saffet Catovic has an MBA, MA and is currently a DMin candidate. He is a long-time Muslim community organizer/activist and environmental leader. He worked for over twenty years as an adjunct teacher of Islamic Studies, US History and Civics at Islamic schools. He worked as the Programs Manager and headed ISNA's Office for Interfaith and Community Alliances and Government Relations in Washington, DC. He currently is the Director of UN Operations at Justice For All.

Dalia El-Deeb



Dr. Dalia El Deeb carries Qur'an Ijazah according to Hafs upon Aasim, and American Fellowship for Teaching Arabic to Speakers of Other Languages. She developed the Arabic to Understand Qur'an program and published Islamic education books for Elementary students. She presented in several educational forums/PD workshops in the US, Turkey, Cairo, Jeddah, and Dubai. She is the director of Ahlul-Qur'an Academy, Hifdh

program director at Bayaan Academy, and the Chair- Person of the Nurania training in the USA.

Susan Douglass



Dr. Susan Douglass is the K-14 Education Outreach Director at Georgetown's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, where she conducts education outreach jointly with Georgetown's Alwaleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding. She received a PhD in history, and an M.A. in Arab Studies. She contributed to public history projects for the National Endowment for the Humanities, created curriculum for Unity Production Foundation, and contributed to online projects such as World History for Us All.

Samar Dalati-Ghannoum

Samar Dalati-Ghannoum is an award-winning instructor and curriculum developer, serving as a professor of History and Arabic language at the University of Redlands. She is a Fulbright Foreign Language program mentor at the University of Oregon. She earned a bachelor's degree in Arabic Language and a master's degree in education. Samar has developed programs for teaching Arabic and is an accomplished presenter, serving on the board of multiple education- related organizations.



Kathy Garms



Kathy Garms is co-founder and executive director of the Abdelkader Education Project (AEP) based in Elkader, Iowa which was named after Emir Abdelkader in 1846.. She is passionate about building community by promoting cultural understanding to inspire future leaders and compassionate global citizens. Her international curiosity and interest in citizen diplomacy and civic engagement began while hosting Russians and Ukrainians in Elkader and later as a USAID volunteer in Kyrgyzstan.

Mustafa Ghafoor



Mustafa Ghafoor is co-founder and CEO of Salaam Recovery, an addiction treatment and mental health organization for Muslims. Through Salaam Recovery, he hopes to help break the stigma around addiction and bring treatment to Muslims who need it. He serves on the American Muslim Health Professionals Chicago Chapter Board as Vice President. Mustafa is an investment banker in the Healthcare sector, and has expertise in healthcare finance, operations and mergers and acquisitions.

Wadud Hassan



Wadud Hassan is the Head of School at Good Tree Academy and lives in Dallas (the big D) with his wife and twin girls. Wadud completed his graduate studies in leadership and organizational performance at Vanderbilt University, and leadership training at Harvard, IDEO, and the Neuroscience Academy. Wadud is a certified mindfulness teacher through the Search Inside Yourself Leadership Institute, which was born and developed at Google.

Kareem Irfan



Kareem Irfan is a computer engineer, IP/IT lawyer and Business/M&A Strategist with more than thirty-five years of leadership experience. As 'Global CEO' he has guided a group of multinational corporations, providing IT, Big-Data Analytics, Business Intelligence and Hi-Tech-Ed services across the US, Europe, Asia and the Gulf Cooperation Council. He supports a NASDAQ-listed leading company in Indoor Intelligence and Positional Analytics as Board Director and on Audit, Compensation and Governance Committees.

Dr. Suad Islam



Dr. Suad Islam is an international educator, lecturer, and author. She has 42 years of service to public and private school systems, organizations, businesses, and universities in America and abroad. She has committed her professional and academic careers to the global expansion of outstanding educational, literary, cultural, and civic engagement opportunities for all. She is a qualitative researcher; having authored studies on Islamic Schooling, Community-Partnerships, Muslim ethnic and immigrant identities, immigrant incorporation and assimilation practices.

Bethsaida Garrido Jimenez

Bethsaida Garrido Jimenez is an English instructor with a bachelor's degree in modern languages and a master's degree in education in TEFL (Teaching English in a Foreign Language) context. She started her teaching career in 2003, teaching diverse levels and as a college professor. This led Ms. Garrido to share with others best practices and experiences to improve a wider perspective of today's education, achieving timely strategies.



Dr. Muhammad Khalifa



Dr. Muhammad Khalifa is a professor of Educational Administration and Executive Director of Urban and Rural Initiatives at Ohio State University. He served as the Robert H. Beck Endowed Chair of Ideas in Education at the University of Minnesota. He published four books and over fifty publications in the most highly rated journals in education. His most recent book, *Culturally Responsive School Leadership*, is being used in over 100 leadership training programs across the world.

Amber Khan



Amber Khan graduated from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine and earned an associate degree in Islamic Studies from Mishkah University. Amber Khan has been a Muslim youth health educator since 2010. She has been the chair of the Education Committee for the Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA) since 2015 and Community Educator for the Family and Youth Institute since 2021.

Farea Khan



Farea Khan has been in the field of education for over fifteen years. She is a licensed ELA teacher, instructional coach and is in the process of completing her principal licensure in the state of North Carolina. Currently she serves as the principal of Al-Iman School in Raleigh, NC. She holds a master's degree in education with a focus on curriculum and instruction as well as curriculum and developmental supervision.

Salman Khan



Salman Khan is the Founder of Hidayah Services and Co-Founder of Muslim Campus Life. He has worked as a College Counselor and an Admissions Reader at Stanford University. He has conducted workshops on a variety of college-related topics, and helped Islamic schools develop their college counseling programs. He earned a BA from Rutgers University, a College Counseling Certificate through UCLA Extension, an MA from Stanford University, and is currently a PhD Student at Harvard University.

Assad Koshul



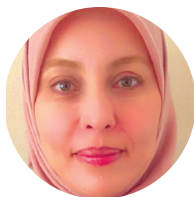
Assad Koshul is the founder of Criterion Concepts whose Seerah course has been approved by Al-Azhar University. Assad is an Accounting, Organizational Development, Change Management, Leadership and Human Capital Development Professional with experience in diverse industries in developed and emerging markets. He is a CPA, Certified Scrum Master (CSM), PROSCI Change Management Certified and Certified Professional in Talent Development (CPTD). His work focuses on knowledge integration, concept and framework development for students, professionals, and activists.

Susan Labadi

Susan Labadi, founder and president of Genius School, Inc., is a Dr. Amen Brain Health licensed trainer, experienced consultant, teacher, and Islamic school administrator. She earned degrees in psychology, sociology, and a master's in teaching, and has served on the boards of CISNA and WISER. She serves on the faculty of CISE and DEFINE360, and creates online courses for teachers, teens, and parents. (www.susanlabadi.com)



Luluah Mustafa



Luluah Mustafa is a master Arabic lecturer at Boston University, where she teaches Arabic courses at all levels. She earned her Ed.M. in curriculum and teaching from Boston University's School of Education. She served as the head of the Arabic program and first year courses coordinator for many years. She is a board member of the NERALLT technology association. In recognition of her dedication, she received two prestigious awards for Faculty Excellence in Teaching.

Azra Naqvi



Dr. Azra Naqvi has a master's and a PhD in Educational Leadership. She is the principal and a founding member of the Hadi School of Excellence. She is a member of the Teacher Preparation Advisory Board at the National College of Education and serves as the committee chair of the ISNA Education Forum. Dr. Naqvi serves on the Cognia Accreditation Engagement Review Teams and she is currently a board member of CISNA.

Leila Osman

Leila Osman is an educator who has taught Islamic Studies for more than fifteen years. She has a master's in school leadership. She founded an educational Muslim youth organization to make Islamic learning more accessible. She has spent much time teaching and, more recently, developing Islamic Studies curriculum that can be used by any Islamic Studies instructor. She loves to engage students in a structured and fun way to create memorable lasting impressions.

Necva Ozgur



Necva Ozgur is the founding School Head of New Horizon School which earned accreditation from WASC, CAIS, and the Blue-Ribbon recognition from the Department of Education. She established MERIT, Muslim Educators, Resource, Information and Training Center and developed the Academy of Islamic Thought. She led the establishment of Bayan Islamic Graduate School, where she teaches Nonprofit Leadership and Management classes. Necva founded WISER, Weekend Islamic Schools Educational Resources, aiming to guide and support weekend schools.

Talaat Pasha



Dr. Talaat Pasha is the director of the Arabic Language Institute at the American Islamic College. He holds a Ph.D. in Arabic and linguistics. He is an education consultant of curriculum and instruction and is a certified coach and trainer in Personality Types, Mental Health First Aid, and Positive Intelligence. He is the founder of PASHA ACADEMY Consulting and Training, offering life and executive coaching services and facilitating workshops for personal and professional growth.

Habeeb Quadri

Habeeb Quadri has a bachelor's in teaching of history and a master's in school administration. He is on Harvard University's Graduate School of Education Principals' Advisory Board and has served the National Advisory Board for MYNA (Muslim Youth of North America), CISNA (Council of Islamic Schools of North America), Cook County Sheriff's Muslim Advisory Board, Illinois Coalition of Nonpublic Schools, IQRA Foundation, and the DePaul University School of Education. Mr. Quadri has co-authored five books.



Eamaan Rabbat



Eamaan Rabbat holds a master's in educational leadership and administration and serves as the Education Director of Rabata, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting positive cultural change through creative educational experiences. With over 25 years of experience in schools and educational institutes, she dedicates her time to building exceptional educational programming for children and adults. She has taught students of all ages, both online and in-person, and is the Director of the Ribaat Academic Institute.

Ibrahim Sablaban



Dr. Ibrahim Sablaban is a psychiatrist and dual boarded addiction medicine physician working in acute care psychiatry. He is a clinical assistant professor at Michigan State University and Wayne State University. He is also the Associate Program Director of Beaumont Health's Psychiatry Residency Program and Director of Medical Education at Beaumont Behavioral Health Hospital. He has received awards for teaching and clinical work and takes interest in the trauma and inequity surrounding displaced minority populations.

Magda Elkadi Saleh

Magda Elkadi Saleh has been a leader in Islamic schools in Tampa, FL since 1992 and is currently the Head of School of Bayaan Academy. She is also the Vice President of ISNA, the President of Radiant Hands and is the founding Treasurer of Florida Islamic Schools Association. She has a Master's degree in Public Health, and her goal is to empower individuals to reach their utmost potentials in a way that is most pleasing to Allah SWT.



Leila Shatara



Leila Shatara, Ph.D. serves as the Head of School at Noor-ul-Iman School and is the President of CISNA. She is a published researcher and presented her research at state, national and international conferences. She has been an educator for 29 years and helped 5 schools with systemic change. She has served on accreditation teams and guided Islamic schools with their accreditation for 15 years. Some of her areas of expertise include systems building, budgeting, Board governance, and principal and teacher evaluations.

Nadeem Siddiqi

Nadeem Siddiqi serves on the Board of Directors for the Muslim Community of Knoxville, Annoor Academy of Knoxville, Tayseer Seminary, and the Association of Muslim Chaplains. He serves as adjunct faculty for Tayseer Seminary where he teaches a course in community activism and governance. Br. Nadeem is the Muslim Chaplain at the University of Tennessee for the Muslim Student Association. He also teaches courses on organizational science and management best practice.



William White

William White is a Certified Master facilitator in the Leadership Challenge framework and is passionate about leadership development for Muslim institutions throughout the world. In addition to his work as a school principal, he is also a board member of the Council of Islamic Schools in North America (CISNA) and is actively involved in providing leadership training to schools and national organizations in the United States.



Nabeela Syed



Nabeela Syed is an American politician and Democratic member of the Illinois House of Representatives from the 51st district. In 2021, Syed served as Campaign Manager for Township High School District 211 School Board Member Tim McGowan. She took office on January 11, 2023. At 23, Syed is one of the youngest people and one of the only Muslims to ever serve in the General Assembly of Illinois.

Nada Wafa

Dr. Nada Wafa is an instructor in teacher education and learning sciences at North Carolina State and William Peace Universities. She teaches the social studies method of teaching to pre-service and in-service teachers. She earned her Ph.D. in teacher education and learning sciences. Her research focuses on the integration of global education in schools and societies, and the methods of supporting teachers to integrate global perspectives, inquiry-based instruction, and innovative technology into their pedagogical methods.



Jomana Wilson



A former university professor, researcher, and published writer, Jomana Wilson has focused her professional endeavors for the last decade on developing curriculum for Arabic as a Foreign Language programs in Jordan, Kuwait, and the United States. Her academic credentials include a bachelor's degree in jurisprudence, a master's degree in education, and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction. She is the current vice president of the *Georgia Arabic Teachers Association* and an Executive Committee member of the *Arabic Teachers Council of the South*.

Urooj Yazdani

Urooj Yazdani holds an M.D. from the Chicago Medical School and an M.Ed. from the Johns Hopkins University School of Education. She is a pediatric psychiatry fellow at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. Her research on the link between systemic poverty and intergenerational trauma became the basis of *A Destruction*, a documentary developed by the Tribeca Film Institute, screened at film festivals around the globe, and is available to stream on Amazon.



Tara Turk-Zaafran



Tara Turk-Zaafran has been an educator the past twenty-five years and is the current vice-principal at ILM Academy. She holds a bachelor's degree in microbiology and immunology and a master's in education in curriculum and instruction. Tara is the southwest regional educator for ISPU in Texas. Tara is also the founder of "Building Bridges" in Houston which brings together Muslim, Jewish, and Christian students. She currently serves as the WISER board secretary.

Safaa Zarzour, ISNA President

Safaa Zarzour is an educator, attorney, and community activist. He is the President of ISNA, former President of CISNA and the Superintendent of Universal Schools in Illinois and Indiana. He has served as



the Secretary General of ISNA, General Counsel and Chief Operations Officer of Zakat Foundation, Chief Executive Officer of IQRA International Foundation, and adjunct law professor at Loyola Law School. Recently, Br. Safaa was elected to the board of Oak Lawn High School District 229 in Illinois.

ISNA Education Forum
Arabic Pre-Conference Workshop

May 12, 2023
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Marriott O'Hare

Brain-Friendly Assessment Practices for Teachers of Arabic

By

Drs. Jomana Wilson & Salah Ayari

When assessment is limited to high-stakes exams, it becomes associated with stress and anxiety. Rather than being a stressful experience, assessment could be used as a tool not only to evaluate learning, but also to enhance it. Join Drs. Jomani Wilson and Salah Ayari as they explore different assessment practices and how they can be utilized to improve learning and teaching and achieve the goals of your Arabic program.

Dr. Jomana Wilson is an Arabic Curriculum Developer and Instructional Coach at Al Falah Academy in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Salah Ayari is an Instructional Professor and Director of Language Instruction at the Department of Global Languages and Cultures at the University of Texas A&M.

Note: Participants will receive a six-hour certificate of attendance to put towards their professional development.

24th Annual ISNA Education Forum
Qur'an Pre-Conference Friday, May 12th, 2023

The Effective Qur'an class: Recitation and Tafseer Standards

Dalia El Deeb

This intensive training workshop is presented in English and Arabic to equip Qur'an teachers with outcome-based strategies to assist their students read Qur'an with fluency and proper Tajweed, enrich their Qur'anic vocabulary, and promote their understanding of the Holy Qur'an. The interactive workshop aims at optimizing the learning process in Qur'an classes and provides Assessment Models for outcome verification. Attendees receive training in identifying the required learning outcome, planning, the use of effective strategies, and the use of material (الماهر بالقرآن) and manipulatives designed by the presenter to run engaging classes. Candidates will get busy working in teams to plan and present mini-Qur'an classes with attention to reading and Tajweed skills as well as Tafseer.

Session I: 8:30-9:30 **Where to Start?** (Interactive)

Diagnostic tests for **preassessment** of: التقويم القبلي

- ▶ Students' fluency and accuracy of reading and applied Tajweed
- ▶ KWL Principal Qur'anic knowledge and Theory of Tajweed
- ▶ Understanding of Qur'anic vocabulary/Commonly Repeated Words (CRW)

Session II: 9:40-10:50 **Begin with the End in Mind**

مخرجات التعليم، التصميم العكسي، استراتيجيات التعليم، أنشطة تعليمية ووسائل إيضاح، التقويم النهائي

- ▶ Qur'an Curriculum Objectives (Desired **Learning Outcome - Standards**) الأهداف والمعايير
- ▶ Backwards Design -**Benchmarks** K-12
- ▶ From Curriculum design to planning and teaching strategies
- ▶ Effective **Teaching strategies/Differentiation** استراتيجيات التعليم – التعليم المتميز
- ▶ Essential practices for successful implementation of the **Nurania method** النورانية
- ▶ How to use الماهر بالقرآن: كتابي الثاني في التجويد
- ▶ Manipulatives and **learning activities** to facilitate reading fluency and accuracy أنشطة تعليمية
- ▶ Formative and Summative **Assessment** to check the outcome التقويم التكويني والتقييمي النهائي

Session III: 11:00-12:00 **Get Busy:** (Interactive جلسة تفاعلية)

- ▶ Facilitated: Planning session I
- ▶ Independent: Teams Presentations

Session IV: 2:00-3:20 **Open a window for your students to understand the Holy Qur'an**

- ▶ Suggested **Tafseer Standards:** Teaching based on a required outcome معايير التفسير
- ▶ Tafseer Strategies استراتيجيات التفسير
- ▶ Key Ayas in Aqida that students of different age groups must learn آيات مفتاحية
- ▶ Vocabulary selection- Innovative methods to practice the Commonly Repeated Words (CRW) in the Qur'an- تدريبات إبداعية على الكلمات الأكثر تكراراً في القرآن اختيار المفردات
- ▶ Where does the meaning come from? The Arabic to Understand Qur'an program العربية لفهم القرآن

Session V: 3:30-5:00 **Get Busy:** (Interactive جلسة تفاعلية)

- ▶ Facilitated: Planning session II: PPP (PPU) and PDP lesson frameworks: How to use in Tafseer class- تفسير إعداد نماذج الدرس
- ▶ Independent: Teams Presentations :Teams present mini Tafseer lessons and receive/give others a score based on a rubric

ISNA Ed Forum 2023 Leadership Pre Conference: Strengthening the Principal and Board Partnership

Research shows that high performing and sustainable schools are almost always accompanied by high performing boards and school leadership. An essential aspect of strong governance is a strong and healthy partnership between school leaders such as principals and their boards. Such partnerships rarely develop by default and require knowledge, dedication and continuous nurturing. Join us for a day of engaging sessions designed for both board members and school administrators. During this we will cover essential topics that provide participants with a new perspective on the principal and board relationship and the tools to further develop their own school's leadership model in order to build a powerful partnership.

Sessions will be facilitated by BoardSource® trained facilitators Dr. Leila Shatara and William White along with other experts in the field of governance and Islamic school leadership, such as Sis. Magda Elkadi Saleh, founder of three Islamic schools. Session topics will include:

Specific and Shared Roles of Board Members and School Leaders

Key Question: What should everyone do?

- ▶ What are the specific roles of the board vs. principal?
- ▶ Where are their shared roles?
- ▶ What are common issues in Islamic schools?
- ▶ What steps can be taken to address these common issues?

How to Cultivate, Recruit and Retain New Board Members and School Leaders

Key Question: How do we find people?

- ▶ How does a school determine what it needs in terms of skills and stakeholders/demographics?
- ▶ Recruitment strategies (self-perpetuating vs. election models), use of committees, developing internal talent (both principals and board)
- ▶ Training for new leaders (onboarding, induction and becoming a learning board)

Hiring and Feedback Systems for School Leadership

Key Question: How do we support the people we have?

- ▶ How does the board evaluate itself?
- ▶ How does the board provide feedback/evaluation to school leaders?

Action Planning for Our Schools

Key Question: *What's Next for My School?*

- ▶ What are the key challenges facing my school's governance and leadership partnership?
- ▶ What specific steps can be taken to improve or sustain our board/principal relationship?
- ▶ What resources do we need?

Notes

Notes