

# ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

# 25<sup>th</sup>



# ISNA EDUCATION FORUM

*Pursuing Excellence for the Greater Good*

# PROGRAM

In Collaboration with **CISNA** (Council of Islamic Schools Based in North America) and **WISER** (Weekend Islamic Schools Educational Resources)



**SCAN FOR  
EVALUATION  
SURVEY**



**MAY 10-12, 2024**  
MARRIOTT CHICAGO O'HARE

8535 W HIGGINS RD  
CHICAGO, IL 60631



# 25<sup>th</sup> ISNA EDUCATION FORUM

*Pursuing Excellence for the  
Greater Good*



## EDUCATION FORUM PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Abir Catovic - Co-chair  
Azra Naqvi - Co-chair  
Susan Labadi  
Salah Ayari  
Ziad Abdulla  
Farea Khan  
Leila Shatara  
Magda Elkadi Saleh  
Tabasum Ahmad  
Humza Mohammed  
Mukhtar Ahmad

## PRAYER TIMES O'HARE BALLROOM TERMINAL 5

FAJR 5:00 AM

JUMMAH 1:15 PM

ASR 5:15 PM

MAGHRIB 8:05 PM

ISHA 9:45 PM

## ROOM LOCATIONS

**Lunch, Dinner & Banquet** - Grand Ballroom 1-4

**Arabic & Quran** - Salon 1-8

**Health & Wellness** - Chicago Ballroom D-E

**Leadership Admin/Board** - Grand Ballroom 5-7

**Islamic Studies** - Grand Ballroom F-G

**Curriculum & Instruction** - Chicago Ballroom D-E

**Concluding Program** - Chicago Ballroom F-G

**Networking & Bazaar** - Chicago Ballroom ABC

*\*Location information also found in program details*

**SCAN FOR  
EVALUATION  
SURVEY**



## DISCLAIMER

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## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



**ICNA Relief**  
**BACK 2 SCHOOL**



**Arabic  
Daily**



**AMERICAN  
ISLAMIC  
COLLEGE**





# BACK2SCHOOL

Uplifting almost a million students in 50 states and reaching 1182 cities, ICNA Relief's Back2School Program has made a profound national impact. Empowering almost 200 teachers with cash awards to advance learning. Recognized by 22 media outlets and facilitated by 318 partners, the program's success is evident. With the support of 1,033 dedicated volunteers, it effectively implements diverse programs.

Path to Success

- **Student Success**
  - Backpack Giveaway
  - Student Financial Aid
- **Educator Success**
  - Empower Grant
- **Parent Success**
  - Monthly Web Cast



## #OneNationOneCause

[ICNARELIEF.ORG/B2S](http://ICNARELIEF.ORG/B2S)

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## PROGRAM

### PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS Friday, May 10, 2024

#### 8:00 - 10:00 AM

##### Registration

*Separate registrations for Pre-Conference and  
the forum*

#### 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

##### Arabic and Quran: Salon 8-10

*An integrated Approach to Teaching Arabic  
and Quran*

Abdalla Idris Ali, Amal Elhoseiny & Salah Ayari

##### Health and Wellness: Chicago Ballroom D-E

*Caring for Our Ummah in Three Dimensions*  
Amber Khan, Wadud Hassan and Rehenuma  
Asmi

##### Leadership Admin/Board: Grand Ballroom 5-7

*The Five Behaviors of a Cohesive Team*  
William White

#### 12:00 - 2:00 PM

##### Lunch: Grand Ballroom 1-4

**Jummah Prayer:** 1:15 PM O'Hare Ballroom  
Terminal 5

**Khateeb:** Sh. Abdalla Idris Ali

#### 5:00 - 5:30 PM

**Asr Prayer:** O'Hare Ballroom Terminal 5

## PRAYER TIMES

O'HARE BALLROOM TERMINAL 5

FAJR 5:00 AM

JUMMAH 1:15 PM

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MAGHRIB 8:05 PM

ISHA 9:45 PM



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## PROGRAM

### MAIN SESSIONS

Friday, May 10, 2024



**5:30 - 7:30 PM**

**INAUGURATION DINNER:** GRAND BALLROOM 1-4

#### Qur'an Recitation

**Welcome Remarks:** Safaa Zarzour, ISNA President & William White, CISNA President

**Program Overview:** Abir Catovic

**The Lighthouse Schools Presentation:** Akif Aydin

**Guest Speaker Introduction:** Azra Naqvi

**Keynote Address:** Gholdy Muhammad

**Moderator:** Mukhtar Ahmad



**8:00 - 8:30 PM**

**Maghrib Prayer:** O'Hare Ballroom Terminal 5

**8:30 - 9:45 PM**

### PARALLEL SESSIONS

**Arabic:** Salon 8-10

**(1A)** Salah Ayari: *Brain-Friendly Teaching Strategies for Teachers of Arabic*

**Islamic Studies:** Chicago Ballroom F-G

**(1B)** Najib Azhar: *Inculcating Islamic Values and Skills for Success in Dunya and Akhirah*

**Curriculum & Instruction:** Chicago Ballroom D-E

**(1C)** Susan Labadi: *Stress Reduction in the Classroom*

**Leadership Admin/Board:** Grand Ballroom 5-7

**(1D)** Habeeb Quadri & Rawan Hyick: *Unlocking the Secrets of Success: Leadership Lessons from the Life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)*

## PRAYER TIMES

O'HARE BALLROOM TERMINAL 5

FAJR 5:00 AM

JUMMAH 1:15 PM

ASR 5:15 PM

MAGHRIB 8:05 PM

ISHA 9:45 PM



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# PROGRAM

Saturday, May 11, 2024



**7:45 - 8:45AM**

**Networking Breakfast:** Grand Ballroom 1-4

**9:00 - 10:30 AM**

## PARALLEL SESSIONS

**Arabic:** Salon 8-10

**(2A)** Maria Kouli: *Powerful Strategies to Maximize Target Language in DLI Classrooms*

**Islamic Studies:** Chicago Ballroom F-G

**(2B)** Logan David Siler: *Teaching Islam and Evolution: Theoretical Claims and Cognitive Frames*

**Curriculum & Instruction:** Chicago Ballroom D-E

**(2C)** Bethsaida Martinez & Sagda Wahba: *Experiential Learning Cycle as a Classroom Reflection Tool and Its Use in Physical Education*

**Leadership Admin/Board:** Grand Ballroom 5-7

**(2D)** Anthony Muhammad: *Time for Change! Four Essential Skills for Transformational Leaders*

**10:45 AM - 12:15 PM**

## PARALLEL SESSIONS

**Quran :** Salon 8-10

**(3A)** Aya Khalil Isaac: *Teaching Faith-Based Science*

**Islamic Studies:** Chicago Ballroom F-G

**(3B)** Wadud Hassan & Susan Labadi: *Mental Health Strategies Through al-Balkhi's 9th Century Text*

**Curriculum & Instruction:** Chicago Ballroom D-E

**(3C)** Magda Saleh: *Developing Student Leaders*

**Leadership Admin/Board:** Grand Ballroom 5-7

**(3D)** Anthony Muhammad: *Moving From PLC Lite to PLC Right!*



**12:30 - 1:30 PM**

**ED FORUM LUNCHEON:** GRAND BALLROOM 1-4

**Islamic Schools: Where Are We Heading?**

Keynote Speaker: Habeeb Quadri

**ICNA Relief Back2School Presentation:** Saima Azfar, *Director of Program*

**Moderator:** Magda Elkadi Saleh



**1:40 PM**

**Dhuhr Prayer:** O'Hare Ballroom Terminal 5



# PRAYER TIMES

O'HARE BALLROOM TERMINAL 5

FAJR 5:00 AM

DHUHR 1:40 PM

ASR 5:15 PM

MAGHRIB 8:05 PM

ISHA 9:45 PM



# Notes

Lined area for taking notes.



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# PROGRAM

Saturday, May 11, 2024

## 2:00 - 3:30 PM PARALLEL SESSIONS

**Arabic:** Salon 8-10

**(4A)** Adel Abdelrazek: *Enhancing Language Learning with AI-Powered Tools*

**Islamic Studies:** Chicago Ballroom F-G

**(4B)** Rukayat Yakub: *Heartwork: Islamic Studies Relevant in Our Complex World*

**Curriculum & Instruction:** Chicago Ballroom D-E

**(4C)** Shahida Alikhan, Hassan Aly, Sufia Azmat, Abir Catovic and Susan Labadi: *(WISER - Weekend School Standards & Certification)*

**Leadership Admin/Board:** Grand Ballroom 5-7

**(4D)** Arshiya Shaikh, Rahila Niazi, Anam Chaudry and Leila Shatara: *Fostering the Fitra at Al-Hidaya School: A Revival of our Islamic Traditions*

## 3:45 - 5:15 PM

**JOINT SESSION:** Chicago Ballroom D-E-F-G

**(5A)** Habeeb Quadri, Deanna Othman and Safaa Zarzour (Host):

***Navigating Jerusalem & Palestine in Islamic Education***



## 5:15 - 5:30 PM

**Asr Prayer:** O'Hare Ballroom Terminal 5



## 5:30 - 7:30 PM

**CELEBRATION BANQUET:** GRAND BALLROOM 1-4

**Qur'an Recitation**

**Welcome Remarks:** Safaa Zarzour, ISNA President

**Keynote Address:** Khalifa Muhammad

***Lifetime Service Award Presented to Seema Imam***

**Student Presentations**

**Moderator:** Fiyyaz Jaat



## 8:00 - 8:15 PM

**Maghrib Prayer:** O'Hare Ballroom Terminal 5

## PRAYER TIMES

O'HARE BALLROOM TERMINAL 5

FAJR 5:00 AM

DHUHR 1:40 PM

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ISHA 9:45 PM

## Notes



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# PROGRAM

Saturday, May 11, 2024

8:30 - 9:45 PM

## CONCURRENT EVENTS

**WISER-Applying and Preparing for Weekend School Certification:** Chicago Ballroom D-E  
(6A) Abir Catovic, Amal Elhoseiny and Susan Labadi

**Annual CISNA Meeting:** Grand Ballroom 5-7

**Networking & Bazaar Hour:** Chicago Ballroom ABC

Sunday, May 12, 2024

9:00 - 10:15 AM

## PARALLEL SESSIONS

**Qur'an:** Salon 8-10  
(7A) Fatima Antakli: *Rules to Distinguish Quranic Similarities Given the Meaning*

**Islamic Studies:** Chicago Ballroom F-G  
(7B) Abir Catovic: *Honoring Fridays in Our Islamic Schools*

**Leadership Admin/Board:** Grand Ballroom 5-7  
(7C) Mohamed Salah Ahmed: *Theory of Knowledge & Power of Perception: The Growth Mindset*

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

**Concluding Program:** Chicago Ballroom F-G

(8A) Join us for an opportunity to network and share your feedback about this year's Education Forum.

**Have fun and win fabulous prizes.**  
*Hosted by Education Forum Program Committee*

# PRAYER TIMES

O'HARE BALLROOM TERMINAL 5

FAJR 5:00 AM

DHUHR 1:40 PM

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MAGHRIB 8:05 PM

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# Notes

**SCAN FOR EVALUATION SURVEY**



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# Islamic Services Foundation

Serving the North Texas Muslim community since 1989

Islamic Services Foundations (ISF) has served the Muslim community for 35 years and its projects have expanded over the years.

## OVERVIEW OF ISF PROJECTS

### BRIGHTER HORIZONS ACADEMY

The largest accredited 1st-12th Islamic school in the South, serving close to 1,000 students on a 14+acre campus. Graduating students since 2002. Extensive extra-curriculars catering to a variety of student interests. Qur'an, Islamic Studies, Arabic, Art and electives built into the school day.



BRIGHTER HORIZONS ACADEMY



### LITTLE HORIZONS ACADEMY

During the Summer prior to the 23-24 Academic School Year, ISF made the decision to move BHA's preschool and kindergarten classes to a separate campus nearby and Little Horizons Academy was founded. Now with close to 200 students in a newly renovated building, our little stars are thriving!

### BHA SUNDAY SCHOOL

BHA Sunday School serves Muslim students ages 5 to 14 years old who attend public schools. It teaches Tarbiyah, Arabic, Qur'an and Islamic Studies. The BHA Sunday School serves close to 100 students each week. Enrichment activities and lessons take place on the BHA campus.



BHA SUNDAY SCHOOL



### ISF QUR'AN INSTITUTE

IQI offers full-time Hifz, part-time Hifz and an Ijaza program. Located in a newly renovated building close to the BHA campus and with close to 170 students enrolled, IQI is a growing school, that has graduated 91 huffadh as of 2023.

### ISF PUBLICATIONS

Established in 2002, ISF Publications takes pride in offering comprehensive Islamic studies and Arabic curriculums to schools and Muslim households across North America and across the World with over 400 Muslim schools utilizing ISF publications.



ISF PUBLICATIONS



MUSLIM YELLOW PAGES

### MUSLIM YELLOW PAGES

MYP has been a trusted business directory since 1992, serving the classified advertising market, primarily in Texas. MYP facilitates connections between buyers & sellers within the Muslim community, offering affordable advertising solutions in print and online.

To join our growing community and have a hand in shaping the future Muslim community, contact:

**BHA & LHA:** HR@bhaprep.org | **All other ISF projects:** operations@islamicservices.org

VISIT OUR BOOTHS AT THE ISNA EDUCATION FORUM TO MEET WITH ISF REPRESENTATIVES FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

### An Integrated Approach to Teaching Arabic & Qur'an

Friday, May 10, 2024

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Salon 8-10

#### 8:30 – 9:00 AM (Salah Ayari)

Welcome/Introduction + Workshop objectives/overview

#### 9:00 – 10:00 AM (Abdullah Idriss)

##### Rationale for the Integration of Arabic and Qur'an in Islamic Schools

- The connection between Qur'an and Arabic
- The role of the Qur'an in spreading and preserving the Arabic language
- The importance of learning Arabic for deeper understanding of the Qur'an
- Collaboration between Arabic and Qur'an teachers

#### 10:00 – 10:15 AM

Coffee Break

#### 10:15 am – 12:00 PM (Salah Ayari)

##### Advancing Qur'an Learning in the Arabic classroom

- Integrating Qur'an in the five area goals of language learning
- Using Quranic text as a resource for the three modes of communication
- Examining a sample thematic unit with integrated Qur'an
- Working in groups to develop thematic units supported with Qur'anic text.

#### 12:00 – 2:00 PM

Lunch and Jumu'a Prayer

#### 2:15 – 5:00 PM (Amal Elhoseiny)

##### Advancing Arabic language learning through the Qur'an

- Maximizing the use of Arabic and minimizing the use of English
- Appreciating the beauty of the Arabic language
- Highlighting the acoustic qualities of the Qur'an (whole brain activation to enhance learning)
- Improving proper pronunciation and reading with fluency through phonological and phonemic awareness
- Nooraniyyah and other Methods of teaching the Qur'an
- The 5 C's as a framework for teaching Arabic and Qur'an
- Focusing on interpretive communication to enhance comprehension
- Teaching related grammatical structures to develop accuracy and comprehension
- Enriching student vocabulary through memorization and meaning-making
- Sample activities, games, assessments, and resources to promote Arabic learning in the Qur'an class.

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MAGHRIB 8:05 PM

ISHA 9:45 PM

## PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

### Health & Wellness: Caring for Our Ummah in Three Parts Friday, May 10, 2024

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Chicago Ballroom D-E

#### Addressing Trauma with Rehenuma Asmi:

- This session will develop teachers' & administrators' capacity to engage with the challenges their students are facing with a compassionate approach centered in the Prophetic tradition.

#### Navigating Sexual and Gender Identity with Amber Khan:

- This session will discuss navigating the rise and pressure to support the LGBTQ+ agenda, tolerance within an Islamic framework, answering tough questions by youth, how to offer comfort for Muslims personally struggling with these tests, and more.

#### Mental Health & Wellness First Aid for the Self with Wadud Hassan:

- This session will share key concepts and tools of mental and emotional health and wellness that educators, caregivers, and leaders can use first for self-help, and then to nurture God-centered mental and emotional well-being in the adults and youths they serve.

### Leadership: The Five Behaviors of a Cohesive Team Friday, May 10, 2024

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Grand Ballroom 5-7

#### Addressing the Five Behaviors of a Cohesive Team with William White

Join to learn research based best practices for effective teams from the Five Behaviors of a Cohesive Team framework by Patrick Lencioni. During the workshop, participants will incorporate personalized assessment feedback to:

- Learn how to establish effective trust
- Identify healthy conflict and how to nurture it
- Learn strategies for achieving commitment and developing peer-to-peer accountability.
- Review what was learned and develop an action plan to become a better teammate.

*\*Paid registration includes a Five Behaviors Personal Development Profile and a comprehensive online survey.*





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## PROGRAM

### MAIN SESSIONS

Friday, May 10, 2024

8:30 - 9:45 PM

### PARALLEL SESSIONS

#### **Arabic:** Salon 8-10

**(1A)** Salah Ayari: *Brain-Friendly Teaching Strategies for Teachers of Arabic*

- To be effective, our instructional practices need to be supported by research on how the brain responds during learning. This session will discuss and provide examples of instructional strategies to which the brain responds positively, and which can lead to active student engagement in the Arabic classroom.

#### **Islamic Studies:** Chicago Ballroom F-G

**(1B)** Najib Azhar: *Inculcating Islamic Values and Skills for Success in Dunya and Akhirah*

- Parents, students, and teachers target school education towards college and career readiness, matching student's interests, abilities, and skills. Islamic schools add to success in the afterlife in addition. Skills for worldly success and virtuous values for ultimate eternal success are built simultaneously, producing good Muslims and contributing citizens in communities. With interconnections among subjects and intraconnections within each subject, Islamic values are dovetailed while concurrently building work performance skills, thus ensuring success in dunya and akhirah.

#### **Curriculum & Instruction:** Chicago Ballroom D-E

**(1C)** Susan Labadi: *Stress Reduction in the Classroom*

- The prevalence of chronic teacher stress and burnout varies widely and can negatively affect teachers' lives. Studies confirm that many factors that result in student stress and insecurity adversely affect learning. In this session, we will discover what you can do to address stressors for you and your students' benefit.

#### **Leadership Admin/Board:** Grand Ballroom 5-7

**(1D)** Habeeb Quadri & Rawan Hyick: *Unlocking the Secrets of Success: Leadership Lessons from the Life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)*

- In this seminar, we will draw leadership lessons from the life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), examining his overall balance to achieve physical, mental, emotional, and developmental success. Join us to discover how his teachings can be applied to your daily life for a fulfilling and well-rounded existence. Explore 'life hacks' that we can all apply to strive to become exemplary leaders in our schools, households, and social interactions.

## MAIN SESSIONS

### Saturday, May 11, 2024

#### 9:00 - 10:30 AM

#### PARALLEL SESSIONS

**Arabic:** Salon 8-10

**(2A)** Maria Kouli: *Powerful Strategies to Maximize Target Language in DLI Classrooms*

- Keeping young students in the target language 90% of the time is the biggest challenge for all World and Dual Language teachers. However, in this session, the presenter will share 4 powerful strategies that support improving the young language learners' abilities to stay on the target language 90% of the time in the DLI classroom.

**Islamic Studies:** Chicago Ballroom F-G

**(2B)** Logan David Siler: *Teaching Islam and Evolution: Theoretical Claims and Cognitive Frames*

- We will examine the theory of Darwinian evolution as presented in standard middle school and high school life science textbooks. Then, we will explore the areas of Darwin's theory that are in tension with Islamic aqeeda. Finally, as teachers, I will show how we can build cognitive frames that empower our students to engage in scientific discourse and maintain their faith in God and His revelation.

**Curriculum & Instruction:** Chicago Ballroom D-E

**(2C)** Bethsaida Martinez & Sagda Wahba: *Experiential Learning Cycle as a Classroom Reflection Tool and Its Use in Physical Education*

- **(2C I)** The Experiential Learning Cycle Workshop empowers teachers with a dynamic pedagogical framework rooted in reflection and action. Through interactive sessions, educators delve into the cycle's phases - experiencing, reflecting, conceptualizing, and applying - enhancing their teaching efficacy. The workshop fosters a culture of continuous improvement, enriching student engagement and promoting deeper understanding in Islamic schools. Its contributions lie in cultivating reflective practitioners poised to nurture holistic learning experiences grounded in Islamic values.
- **(2C II)** This presentation illustrates applying the experiential learning cycle (ELC) in physical education (PE). The ELC's four phases—Experience/Activity, Reflecting, Generalizing and Abstracting, and Transfer—are discussed. In PE, daily activities provide students with initial learning experiences in sports. After each activity, students reflect on what worked and seek solutions for unsuccessful attempts. They then generalize their findings to create a plan for future success, leading to a deeper understanding of skill competency and enjoyment in sports.

**Leadership Admin/Board:** Grand Ballroom 5-7

**(2D)** Anthony Muhammad: *Time for Change! Four Essential Skills for Transformational Leaders*

- *This session will address the importance of transformational leadership. School culture provides the context for all good strategies. A leader who understands how to motivate, develop talent, and build consensus is worth his/her weight in gold. Today's era of constant change requires leadership who understands human capital development. We will examine four leadership competencies: communication, trust building, professional support, and accountability.*
  - Learning comes:
  - Understand the true meaning and value of school culture
  - Understand the importance of developing consensus
  - Acquire practical skills that inspire others to embrace change

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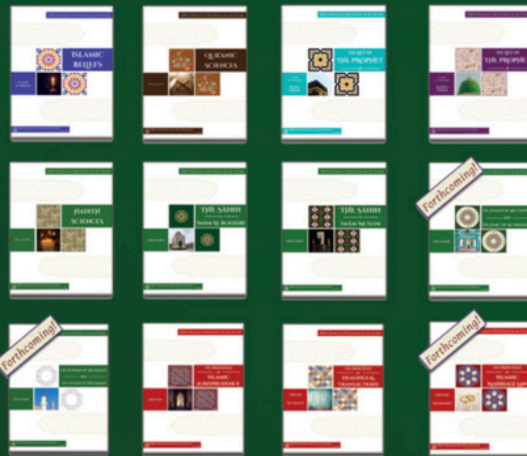


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## MAIN SESSIONS

Saturday, May 11, 2024

### 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM

#### PARALLEL SESSIONS

**Qur'an:** Salon 8-10

**(3A)** Aya Khalil Isaac: *Teaching Faith-Based Science*

- Ayat Science curriculum for K-2 intertwines the profound teachings of the Quran with the wonders of scientific discovery, guided by the principles of Project-Based Learning and Bloom's Taxonomy. By connecting Quranic Ayat to scientific concepts aligned with the Next Generation Common Core Standards, we aim to cultivate a learning environment where the Quran is seen as an essential guide for understanding the world. The Ayat Science Curriculum encourages students to be more engaged and develop a deep-seated appreciation for the interconnectedness of spiritual teachings and scientific facts. This project represents a meaningful stride towards integrating religious wisdom with scientific knowledge, contributing significantly to educational practices.

**Islamic Studies:** Chicago Ballroom F-G

**(3B)** Wadud Hassan & Susan Labadi: *Mental Health Strategies Through al-Balkhi's 9th Century Text*

- The translation of Abu Zayd al-Balkhi's *Sustenance of the Soul* revealed that Muslims predated any work described as therapeutic psychology by eight centuries, and he addressed the connection between spirit, body, and mind for mental health. The deleterious effect of modern life is adversely affecting mental health globally, but Islam has the remedy! Join us to explore the discoveries and therapies of al-Balkhi and how acquiring the character traits of God (Takhalluq bi Aklaq Allah) can help us evolve.

**Curriculum & Instruction:** Chicago Ballroom D-E

**(3C)** Magda Saleh: *Developing Student Leaders*

- Why is it important to develop student leaders, and how can we do this? Can we truly develop student leaders if we, as Islamic school educators, are not leaders? What traits define a leader who pursues excellence for the greater good and leads others in the same direction? Together, we will delve into the answers to these questions and develop strategies to develop leaders of today and tomorrow, insha'Allah successfully.

**Leadership Admin/Board:** Grand Ballroom 5-7

**(3D)** Anthony Muhammad : *Moving From PLC Lite to PLC Right!*

- The PLC at Work process has been accessible to educators for over 25 years. Schools and school districts have been enamored with the concepts and many have attempted to implement the process at scale. Unfortunately, not nearly enough schools have fully implemented the process. Most settle for a modified, scaled-down version called PLC Lite. This session will explore the key leverage points guiding any school into PLC excellence!
  - Learning comes:
  - Participants will learn how to organize an effective guiding coalition to guide a school into the six "tight" elements of a PLC
  - Participants will benefit from 25 years of PLC wisdom in the best practices used to secure full staff commitment to the process
  - Participants will be provided with surveys and rubrics to measure and assess a staff's current reality in the PLC process



## MAIN SESSIONS

### Saturday, May 11, 2024

#### 2:00 PM - 2:30PM

#### PARALLEL SESSIONS

**Arabic:** Salon 8-10

**(4A)** Adel Abdelrazek: *Enhancing Language Learning with AI-Powered Tools*

- This workshop will explore the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the Arabic language, Islamic studies, and Quran teaching to facilitate teachers' work and enhance student engagement. AI-powered tools will be showcased to create interactive vocabulary tables, engage students through games, and develop lesson plans aligned with ACTFL standards. Additionally, quizzes based on Bloom's taxonomy and Depth of Knowledge (DOK) levels will be demonstrated.

**Islamic Studies:** Chicago Ballroom F-G

**(4B)** Rukayat Yakub: *Heartwork: Islamic Studies Relevant in Our Complex World*

- Heartwork gives students the tools to apply the principles of tazkiyyah to tackle today's socio-spiritual challenges. For over six years, this approach has provided a framework for addressing justice, exploitation, identity, faith, and oppression. Heartwork shows students how to make sense of our complex world and be changemakers.

**Curriculum & Instruction:** Chicago Ballroom D-E

**(4C)** Shahida Alikhan, Hassan Aly, Sufia Azmat, Abir Catovic and Susan Labadi: *WISER - Weekend School Standards & Certification*

- A group of experienced and qualified educators has prepared the WISER Standards of Excellence. They help provide guidance and offer opportunities for reflection and refinement of operations for Islamic weekend schools. WISER Standards recognize a school's distinctive mission and respect its institutional uniqueness while maintaining high expectations. This interactive session will familiarize participants with standards and practices for governance, leadership, administration, proper school environment, and parent partnerships.

**Leadership Admin/Board:** Grand Ballroom 5-7

**(4D)** Arshiya Shaikh, Rahila Niazi, Anam Chaudry and Leila Shatara: *Fostering the Fitra at Al-Hidaya School: A Revival of our Islamic Traditions*

- We will introduce a new Islamic school that is holistic in its vision to help children remain as close to their fitra as possible through an Allah-centered day and life. We encourage our schools to move away from segregated models of schooling that disconnect the children from their Creator. We focus on Islamic pedagogy and the "educational values, concepts, and perspectives rooted in Islamic tradition that inspire and inform renewed thinking." The creation of (1) sacred space, (2) the development of teachers' knowledge and understanding, (3) the design of the daily schedule and the thematic curriculum centered in an Islamic worldview, and (4) the partnership with parents, are all integral to our model and its success.

#### 3:45 - 5:15 PM

**JOINT SESSION:** Chicago Ballroom D-E-F-G

**(5A)** Habeeb Quadri, Deanna Othman and Safaa Zarzour (Host):

***Navigating Jerusalem & Palestine in Islamic Education***

- Join us in understanding and discussing Jerusalem's significance as a central framework for teaching about Palestine. In this session, we'll dive into its religious importance, historical context, and modern-day challenges. Together we'll shape a foundation of a future curriculum focused on Jerusalem/Palestine which empowers students to connect deeply with their heritage and grasp the essence of our community's history. This collaboration will pave the way for a comprehensive approach, seamlessly integrating Palestine's awareness into students' consciousness, fostering resilient and knowledgeable individuals within the Muslim world.

## MAIN SESSIONS

### Saturday, May 11, 2024

#### 8:30 - 9:45 PM

#### CONCURRENT EVENTS

**WISER-Applying and Preparing for Weekend School Certification:** Chicago Ballroom D-E

**(6A)** Abir Catovic, Samar Dalati Ghannoum, Amal Elhoseiny and Susan Labadi

- For weekend schools to attain high-quality performance and continuously improve policies and programs, certification is essential. The WISER certification process provides a protocol for schools committed to systematic and sustainable progress and accountability. This interactive session will explore the standards and evidence for curriculum and instruction, Islamic Studies, Arabic instruction, and Qur'anic Studies, and what successful schools do to prepare for the WISER certification process.

### Sunday, May 12, 2024

#### 9:00 - 10:15 AM

#### PARALLEL SESSIONS

**Qur'an:** Salon 8-10

**(7A)** Fatima Antakli: *Rules to Distinguish Quranic Similarities Given the Meaning*

- *Interpreting and understanding the terms helps us apply the correct rulings and guidelines Allah (SWT) outlined. Further, it is the duty of every Muslim to learn about the Quranic meanings, as it is part of the Quran's miracle. When understanding the differences, there are two aspects to delve into. There is a difference in the literal words, and there is a difference in the interpretation of the words.*

**Islamic Studies:** Chicago Ballroom F-G

**(7B)** Abir Catovic: *Honoring Fridays in Our Islamic Schools*

- *Prophet Muhammed (S.) stated that Friday is the best day of the week. As Islamic schools work to help students develop life-long habits for their success in this world and the next, it is essential to teach the students the importance of Friday and make each Friday memorable. Attendees will learn how to infuse each Friday with special activities for all grade levels by which to both learn and celebrate.*

**Leadership Admin/Board:** Grand Ballroom 5-7

**(7C)** Mohamed Salah Ahmed: *Theory of Knowledge & Power of Perception: The Growth Mindset*

- *In this interactive presentation, we seek to unravel the complexities of information reception and decision-making, emphasizing the intersection between the Theory of Knowledge, the Power of Perception, and the cultivation of a Growth Mindset. Participants will actively engage in activities and discussions to comprehend how biases and acquired knowledge influence decision-making processes. The ultimate goal is to encourage a mindset that embraces continuous learning, adaptability, and a nuanced understanding of one's cognitive processes.*

#### 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

**Concluding Program:** Chicago Ballroom F-G

**(8A)** Join us for an opportunity to network and share your feedback about this year's Education Forum.

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# Presenter Biographies



**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.

**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.



**Adel Abdelrazek**, a dedicated educator at Eman Schools in Fishers, Indiana, USA, brings a wealth of experience to his classroom. His journey spans from kindergarten to 10th grade, dating back to 2014. Adel's innovative approach combines traditional methods with technology.

**Dr. Amal Sakr Elhoseiny** received her PhD in comparative studies of German and Arabic languages. A Nooraniyyah-certified instructor, Dr. Elhoseiny has taught Arabic and Qur'an at New Horizons School in Pasadena for more than twenty years.



**Dr. Amber Khan** graduated from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine and earning an Associates' Degree in Islamic Studies from Mishkah University, Amber Khan has been a Muslim youth health educator since 2010.

**Anam Chaudry** has a Master of Science in Education in Mental Health Counseling. She has taught in weekend schools and substituted in Islamic schools for 5 years and taught in full time Islamic schools for two years.



**Dr. Anthony Muhammad** is an author and international thought leader. He currently serves as the CEO of New Frontier 21 Consulting, a company dedicated to providing cutting-edge professional development to schools all over the world.

# Presenter Biographies



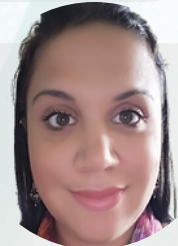
**Arshiya Shaikh** is a core team member of the school's development. She is currently one of our PreK 3 teachers and is enrolled in a master's program at the University of Albany specializing in special education, elementary education, and literacy.

**Aya Isaac** is a dedicated mother of three and the founder of Aoun Programs in Egypt, specializing in K-12 and Informal education curriculum design and training focused on project and play-based learning for parents, caregivers, and teachers.



**Dr. Azra Naqvi** has an academic background in education leadership, accounting, and social work. She earned her Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Argosy University in 2013 and has recently completed her Doctor of Arts in Educational Leadership.

**Bethsaida Martinez**, a beacon of dedication and passion in the field of education, has spent two decades shaping young minds and nurturing the future leaders of tomorrow. With a steadfast commitment to fostering holistic growth and academic excellence.



**Farea Khan** has been in education for over fifteen years. She is a licensed ELA teacher and 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.

**Fatima Antakli** is a Quran, Tafseer, Tajweed, and Arabic teacher at Bayaan Academy. She has 15 years of experience in the teaching profession in many countries. Namely in Saudi Arabia, Syria, and currently in the United States.



**Fiyyaz Jaat** serves as Director of ISNA's YouthDev department. He has grown up working with the Muslim Youth of North America (MYNA) since the age of 15. In 2023 he was named in EquityX's Top 50 Influential Muslims in the Americas. He resides in Toronto with his wife and 3 kids.

# Presenter Biographies



**Dr. Gholnecsar (Gholdy) Muhammad** is an Associate Professor of Literacy, Language, and Culture at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has previously served as a classroom teacher, literacy specialist, school district administrator, curriculum director, and school board president.

**Habeeb Quadri** is a national principal award recipient, author and community/youth advocate. He is currently superintendent of mcc academy and part time staff and advisory board member at Harvard university graduate school of education professional education programs.



**Imam Hassan Mostafa Aly** is the Imam and Director of Religious affairs at The Mecca Center in Willowbrook, Illinois since December 2011. He is a graduate of the prestigious Al-Azhar University of Cairo, Egypt in Islamic Studies and theology.

**Dr. Leila Shatara**, principal of Al-Hidaya School is also an educational consultant. She is currently the President of the Florida Islamic Schools Association and member of the Global Association of Islamic Schools Steering Committee.



**Dr. Logan David Siler** holds a BA in World History from San Francisco State University. He earned his MA in Islamic Leadership from Bayan Islamic Graduate School and received a PhD in Comparative Theology and Philosophy from Claremont School of Theology..

**Magda Elkadi Saleh** has led Islamic schools in Tampa, FL since 1992 and is currently the Head of the School of Bayaan Academy. She is also Radiant Hands's President and the founding Treasurer of the Florida Islamic Schools Association.



**Maria Kouli** is an Arabic World and a Dual language teacher at Elizabeth Learning Center in LAUSD district. she has six years of experience in the Minaret Academy Saturday School and worked as a substitute teacher in Minaret Academy school and in the Westminster district for three years.

# Presenter Biographies



**Mohamed Salah Ahmed** served as the High School Principal for the American Creativity Academy-Kuwait, Principal for the American School of Tangier-Morocco, Head of School of Al Salam Day School-Missouri, Curriculum Director, AP and IB Coordinator at the American Youth Academy, and currently Bayaan Academy's PK-12 Principal in Florida.

**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.



**Dr. Najib Azhar**, founder of LearningIslamicValues.Education, builds Islamic Values and Skills for Success in Life and AfterLife, integrating them into the contemporary education system. He serves as Instructor at ZaytechAcademy.com Islamic School.

**Rahilah Niazi** has been an educator for 11 years in the capacity of a substitute teacher, Pre-K, and elementary teacher. She holds Bachelor's of Science in Childhood Education (Birth-6; Concentration in Mathematics) and my Master's of Education in Literacy (Birth-12).



**Rawan Hayik** is the Project Coordinator for High-Quality Educational Consulting. She has contributed to the organizational establishment and refinement of several Islamic Schools nationwide.

**Rehenuma Asmi**, PhD is an executive board member of the Center for Islam in the Contemporary World where she creates education programs for Islamic school teachers. She received her PhD from Columbia University Teachers College in Anthropology and Education.



**Rukayat Yakub** is an award-winning children's author, educator, trainer, consultant, and professional coach. She has expertise in educational theory, curriculum design, pedagogy, race studies, Islamic studies, and ethical wealth flow.



# Presenter Biographies



**Safaa Zarzour** is the President of ISNA and the Superintendent of Universal Schools in Illinois and Indiana, 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.

**Sagda Wahba** is currently a student at the University of South Florida's College of Education. She has been a PE teacher at Bayaan Academy since 2021. She teaches a range of grades from 3rd-11th grade Physical Education.



**Dr. Salah Ayari** is currently an 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.

**Samar Ghannoum**, a California-based language instructor and history professor, currently teaches at the University of Redlands. Her career began at Damascus University, where she earned a B.A. in Arabic language and arts.



**Dr. Seema Imam** is a lifelong educator with numerous educational certifications, including elementary, middle level, special education, school administration, and superintendent. He is a full professor at National Louis University, where she has served for twenty-nine years preparing teachers.

**Shahida Alikhan** joined New Horizon School, where she became principal and served for 26 years while simultaneously working as the principal of Sunday School for 11 years. In addition, she served as the professional development coordinator at Aldeen Foundation for 21 years.



**Sufia Azmat** is the Executive Director of the Islamic Schools Based in North America (CISNA). She holds a Master's in Islamic Education and Leadership from Bayan. She has served the Islamic education community for over 25 years as a teacher, school leader, leadership coach, and education consultant.

# Presenter Biographies



**Susan Labadi** is a consultant for Islamic schools. She served as a teacher and administrator, and worked to develop the ISNA Education Forums, CISNA, CISE, the American Muslim Consumer Consortium, the American Halal Association, and the American Halal Council.

**Wadud Hassan** is the Head of School at Good Tree Academy and lives in Dallas 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.



**Dr. William White** is a Certified Master facilitator in the Leadership Challenge framework and is passionate about leadership development for Muslim institutions worldwide. He is also a board member of the Council of Islamic Schools in North America (CISNA).

**Ziad Abdulla** is the Principal at The Huda Academy, Little Rock, Arkansas. He obtained his bachelor's degree in jurisprudence, and a Diploma in Education Rehabilitation from the University of Jordan. He received his Master's in Education with a Valedictorian Award from Al-Albait University, Jordan.



**Deanna Othman** is a Palestinian American from Oak Lawn, IL. She has a Bachelor's Degree in English and International Studies, and Master's in Journalism, both from Northwestern University. Ms. Othman is both a journalist and educator. She currently teaches high school English as well as a course on Media and Culture at Universal School.

**Dr. Akif Aydin** founded the Green Charter School, a distinguished institution recognized as one of the top schools in South Carolina. Dr. Aydin has been serving as a faculty for Principles of Economics at the University of South Carolina Upstate,



**Dr. Saima Azfar** currently holds the esteemed positions of Midwest Regional Director at ICNA Relief and the Director of ICNA Relief's national Back2school program. Her initiatives encompass hunger prevention programs, transitional housing units, and the provision of free health services to those in need.

# Lifetime Service Award



**Professor Seema Imam** is a lifelong educator with numerous educational certifications, including elementary, middle level, special education, school administration, and superintendent. She is a full professor at National Louis University, where she has served for twenty-nine years preparing teachers. Dr. Seema Imam has served in elected positions, including Senator, Senate Chair, University Leadership Council, two terms as Co-Chair of the National College of Education, and Chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

Dr. Imam has sixteen years of experience in classroom teaching in the Chicago Public Schools and five years in school administration, serving as the founding principal of Universal School, a Pre-K to 12th Islamic school in the Chicago area. She holds two Master of Arts Degrees, one in Reading and one in School Administration, as well as two Doctorates, one in Curriculum and Social Inquiry and one Doctorate in Islamic Education.

She has served as Chair of the Islamic Schools League of America, (The ISLA) for 4 years and continues serving her twenty-seventh year on the board. She is the co-author of a children's book and numerous chapters and articles. Dr. Imam participates in the foundation of the rapidly growing Legacy International Online High School. She was a faculty participant in the Online teacher preparation program for Islamic school teachers, known as the Islamic Teacher Education Program or ITEP, preparing candidates worldwide for teaching in Islamic Schools.

Dr. Imam has sustained interests in teaching with technology, once planning for and conducting three cohorts of teacher candidates using the iPad. A second consistent research area is that of diversity in the classroom, finding ways to help diverse students feel a sense of belonging in the classroom. Dr. Imam recently participated as a founding delegate of a new association, the Global Association of Islamic Schools, which convened in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2022 to plan its first Global Conference on Islamic Education.

Dr. Imam is active in the Muslim community in the Chicago area, where she raised her family. She now enjoys watching her children and grandchildren achieve many of life's milestones.



# SAVE THE DATE

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# Notes



Notes



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# ANNUAL ISNA CONVENTION

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As for those who believe and do good deeds- We do not let the reward of anyone who does a good deed go to waste  
(Al-Kahf (The Cave) 18:30)

ISNA

20  
24

AUG 30<sup>th</sup>  
SEP 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Confirmed Speakers



Ieasha Prime - Muslema Purmul - Rania Awaad - Hadia Mubarak - Haifaa Younis - Zainab Alwani - Ameena Jandali - Ingrid Mattson - Jamillah Karim



Yasir Qadhi - Mehdi Hasan - Cornel West - Siraj Wahhaj - Zaid Shakir - AbdulNasir Jangda - Akram Nadwi - Miko Peled - Yaser Birjas



Muhammad Ninowy - Muzammil Siddiqi - Abdalla Idris Ali - Mohamed Magid - Hussain Kamani - Safaa Zarzour - Azhar Azeez - Ubaydullah Evans - Waleed Basyouni

Additional Speakers: Muhammad Faqih, Faraz Khan, Rami Nsour, Zulfiqar Ali Shah, Mohammad Qatanani, and others!

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- MSA
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- Entertainment
- Film Festival
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- Interfaith Banquet
- Community Service Recognition Luncheon (CSRL) & President's Award
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