



Islamic Society of North America

Friday, January 18 – Saturday January 19, 2019



8th Annual ISNA West Coast Education Forum

Co-Sponsored by Aldeen

Tentative Program

Friday, January 18, 2019

Registration opens at 8:00 AM

9:00-9:15 AM

Pacific Ballroom 4

Opening Session

ISNA's Welcome Address

Safaa Zarzour, Vice President of ISNA

Safaa Zarzour is an educator, attorney, and a community activist. Professionally, he is the Superintendent of Universal Schools in Illinois and Indiana. He is also the Principal of Zarzour Law LLC. Safaa is newly elected ISNA Vice President-USA, co-founder of the ISNA Education Forum, Chairman of the Council of Islamic Schools of North America (CISNA), member of the Board of Advisors of the Lake Institute on Faith and Giving, Vice Chair of the Mosque Foundation, elected board member of Oak Lawn Community High School and President of the Syrian Forum USA. Previously, he has served as Secretary General of ISNA, General Counsel and Chief Operations Officer of Zakat Foundation of America, Chief Executive Officer of IQRA International Foundation, and adjunct law professor at Loyola Law School.

9:15-10:30 AM

Pacific Ballroom 4

Plenary Session

Value Based Learning

Omar Ezzeldine, Ph.D.

Identify which values we prioritize as educators in an Islamic School. Examine explicit and implicit activities performed by adults in the organization that represent these values. Participants will evaluate their own ideas through the feedback and suggestions of other colleagues and synthesize action plans to begin the deliberate process of inculcating values at school.

Omar Ezzeldine works at the Los Angeles County Office of Education where he supports development of Transitional Kindergarten programs across 81 school districts. He earned his doctorate from UCLA in Educational Leadership and has since worked nationally and internationally to support public and private schools in their development, particularly in the area of increasing student achievement and in developing effective school leaders. He previously served as Principal at New Horizon Pasadena and Emirates National School. He is currently at USC's Rossier School of Education, where he teaches in the Master of Arts in Teaching and Master of Arts in Education programs, and serves on the Academic Senate.

Dr. Ezzeldine is an expert in the areas of teacher development, data-driven decision-making, and school leadership.

10:45-12:00 PM

Pacific Ballroom 4

Curriculum & Instruction

So You Want to Hold a Science Night, But How?

Nishat Alikhan

Science Night is an incredibly fun way to engage students and families in hands-on science activities. If you've always wanted to put on a Science Night, the idea seemed really interesting, but don't know how, then this workshop is for you! This workshop will give teachers and administrators a better understanding of how to put on a successful and engaging Science Night at their school site and will include a step-by-step approach.

Nishat Alikhan earned a BS in Microbiology from California State University – Los Angeles. She, then, went on to earn a Masters in Clinical Microbiology from The University of Nottingham in UK. Nishat is a member of the National Science Teachers' Association, the California Science Teachers' Association, and the California Math Council. Nishat is currently a Lower School Science Specialist at Polytechnic School in Pasadena, CA, currently teaching Science to 2nd - 5th graders. In addition to her teaching role, she serves as a co-chair of the Equity & Inclusion Cohort, a member of the Faculty Curriculum Committee & Global Initiatives Program, and the annual Engineering Challenge and Fun with Science Night coordinator. Outside of school, Nishat serves as the President and Special Awards Chair of the Los Angeles County Science & Engineering Fair, a member of the Judges' Advisory Committee for the California State Science Fair, and an English as a Second Language to English-language Learners.

10:45-12:00 PM

Emerald Bay 3

School Leadership

Teaching and Internalizing Values: Taking it to the Next Level

Necva Ozgur

Helping our students to practice values is as important as teaching them writing, reading and arithmetic. The values we teach our children are their best protection from the challenges of life and influences of peer pressure.

In this session we will explore why students know the values we teach them, are able to give you related Qur'anic verses and examples from Hadith and Sirah, but are not always practicing those values in their daily lives. In this interactive session we will be analyzing together these questions and give educators research-based tools to help students internalize values and develop life-long habits.

Necva Ozgur is the founder and Executive Director of MERIT and founding School Head of New Horizon School Pasadena (NHSP). Necva obtained an M.S. degree from the School of Pharmacy at the University of Istanbul and later, an M.Ed. degree in Human Development from Pacific Oaks College, where she wrote her thesis on *Strategies to Achieve Excellence in an Islamic School*. After serving NHSP as principal and leading the school to earn Blue Ribbon recognition, she established MERIT, Muslim Educators' Resource, Information and Training Center. Necva provides consultation to Islamic schools on board training,

principal coaching, accreditation, school establishment and evaluation. Necva serves on the CISNA board and is board chair of Bayan Claremont College. Necva served as Chair on ISNA Education Forum Committee, as a trustee of NHSP, ICSC, the California Association of Independent Schools, and the Council of Spiritual and Ethical Education. Necva also chaired a committee to develop Islamic school standards for joint accreditation with AdvancED.

10:45-12:00 PM

Emerald Bay 1-2

Arabic Language Workshop

Differentiation

Ghayda AlAli, Ph.D.

In most Arabic language classes, teachers are faced with many students who are heritage language speakers (HLL)/2nd Language Learner. For these students, the target language is not foreign, but rather a home language whose development was interrupted by a switch to English. A typical heritage learner has grown up hearing the language and begins classroom instruction with measurable oral and aural proficiency but with few literacy skills.

This workshop is designed to help Arabic language teachers better understand the differences between 2LL and HLL learners and learn how to differentiate curriculum and instruction to address the range of skill levels present in HLL classes.

Ghayda AlAli, Ph.D., is in Sociolinguistic and Translation: English-Arabic-English. She is Associate Teaching Professor in the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies at Georgetown University. Her research interests lean heavily towards News Discourse Analysis of Arabic print media and its interaction with the western media. She has a strong passion to improve communications and understanding between two disparate cultures of the Arab and the Western. She is the winner of the 2017 CIBER Business Language Research and Teaching grants and has several published works.

2:00 – 5:15 PM

Emerald Bay 1-2

Arabic Language Workshop

Continued – Differentiation, Ghayda AlAli, Ph.D.

2:00 – 6:45 PM

Pacific Ballroom 4

Curriculum and Instruction Workshop

Delve into Teaching Strategies for the 21st Century

Seema Imam, Ph.D.

This workshop will feature 4 dynamic segments sure to appeal to educators at all levels of confidence and competency from a professor of education and technology who makes learning fun!

- Empowering Students: Being Actively Engaged and Pedagogy for Spirituality
- Every Class can be a Maker Space
- Brave Teachers Teach with Technology in a Digital World
- The “Triple E”: Engage, Enhance, and Extend Digital Teaching while Making Sense of Time Management

Seema Imam, Ph.D., Co-Chairs the National College of Education, at National Louis University, serves as Professor in Teacher Preparation, and serves as a director on The Islamic Schools League of America. She taught 16 years in Chicago schools, was founding principal of Universal School in Illinois, and holds teaching, principal and superintendent certificates. Seema has research on diversity and technology and authored two chapters: 'With New Standards in Mind: Selecting & Integrating Educational Technologies for Student Success,' and 'Separation of What and State: The Life Experiences of Muslims in Public Schools in the Midwest.' She co-authored a children's book, "I am Listening." Seema holds a Doctorate in Curriculum and Social Inquiry and a second Doctorate in Islamic Education.

2:00 – 6:45 PM

Emerald Bay 3

Leadership Workshop

Mental Well-being in the Classroom

Noha Alshugairi

Research is highlighting the significance of mental well-being of individuals in contributing to the overall productivity of communities. In this workshop we will learn how teachers can empower themselves and their students by optimizing their mental and emotional wellness. This workshop will offer both psycho education and concrete tools. Learning styles will be mixed between lecture, personal reflection, and experiential activities.

Noha Alshugairi received her M.S. in Counseling (2007) from California State University, Fullerton, and her B.A. in Zoology (1986) from Rutgers University. She is currently a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in private practice in Newport Beach, California. As a Certified Positive Discipline Trainer, she has facilitated several school-wide trainings and conducted many parenting workshops. Her philosophy is grounded in Islam with a strong foundation in the Islamic Sciences. Before becoming a therapist, she worked in Islamic schools as a teacher and a principal which gave her a deep understanding of the issues facing Islamic schools.

5:30- 6:45 PM

Emerald Bay 1-2

Arabic and Quranic Studies

Measuring Student Growth Using Assessment Data

Abdulaziz Abinghannam

The importance of assessments covers different areas; one major point is that it acts as a mirror for how well the students are doing in reaching learning goals. In this session, the presentation will cover several types of language assessments and how critical assessments are in the language learning process. The presentation will also dive into how data is being widely used as a measurement of growth, prove proficiency, and certify bilingualism.

Abdulaziz Ebinghannam is an Account Manager and Arabic specialist at Avant Assessment, providing support for educators of Arabic throughout the world. Graduating from the University of Oregon with a degree in Operations and Business Analytics, Abdulaziz works in areas such as website analytics, statistical analysis, and big data visualization. Prior to his graduation, Abdulaziz has worked as a Teacher Assistant in the Arabic program at the university.

Saturday, January 19, 2019

9:00-10:15 AM

Pacific Ballroom 4

Curriculum & Instruction

The A in STEAM

Fawzia Mai Tung, Ph.D.

Islamic schools tend to be good at STEM. But when an A was added to the acronym, many schools either shied away from it or limited it to crafts and Islamic calligraphy. Here is a tested method of how to build a successful art curriculum and implement it in your school, regardless of its developmental stage. You may even get away from hiring a specialized art teacher and only utilize your current staff.

Fawzia Mai Tung, Ph.D., worked for 33 years as a tutor, homeschooling mom, teacher, principal, charter school holder, private school founder, and educational consultant presently serving on the boards of the ISLA and CISE. She is also an amateur artist, her work having been accepted at various exhibitions. Her art students have won numerous awards. Some of her students have gone on to major and launch careers in art and design related fields.

9:00-10:15 AM

Emerald Bay 3

School Leadership

Creating an Effective Weekend School Classroom

Adita Arya

What is the point of attending your class? Students need to know the important relevance for attendance and their critical value as participants in their educational setting. You, as their teacher, set the stage for their development. We will learn the keys of aiming higher and putting the components together for your success as a teacher.

Adita Arya holds an M.S. in Educational Leadership, a B.S. in Biology, and she is credentialed to teach science to middle and high school in CA. Along with community stakeholders, she founded AIM Academy in 2013. She is also president and co-founder of Afghan Literacy Foundation, an organization that prevents children from being forced into child labor in Afghanistan. Previously, she was the director of Pillars Academy. She is currently working towards her second Masters in Islamic Studies and Leadership at Bayan Claremont.

9:00-10:15 AM

Emerald Bay 1-2

Arabic and Quranic Studies

Learning with Mindful Repetition without Being Repetitive

Lina Kholaki and Nachida Tizani

Bored learners aren't learners at all. So, how do you repeat without being repetitive? Using the same words and activities everyday makes students feel bored/uninterested in the language class. We should be asking ourselves, how do we keep repeating without being repetitive? Participants will be able to learn several tips on how to keep students engaged in the same content even through several repetitions.

Lina Kholaki, has her master's degree in education from Pacific Oaks College, is certified as an ACTFL-OPI and WPT tester, and has been in the teaching field for the past 20+ years. She was appointed as a language consultant and coordinator for Arabic Teachers at New Horizon campuses, She has taught college level Arabic Language Courses at Cal State San Bernardino and University of Southern California. Currently she serves as consultant and instructional coach for LAUSD-Dual Immersion program at Elizabeth Learning Center in Los Angeles, California. Lina is the co-developer of "Hayya Natakalam Maan." Lina serves as president of National Arabic Teacher Association (NATA K12), co-chair Southern California QFI Teacher Council "SCALTC", and is a recipient of ACTFL Veteran Teacher of the Year Award- San Diego, CA.

Nacheda Tizani studied 2 years of computer science in Tripoli University, Lebanon, and is currently continuing her education in the field of teaching. She has been working in New Horizon School for the past 15 years, teaching Arabic as a foreign language in the elementary and middle school. Currently, she is teaching kindergarten and beginning Arabic to grades five through eight. Additionally, she worked on designing the assessment booklet of "Hayya Natakalam Maan" for preschool, pre-k, and kindergarten and formatting pictures for "Lughati Al-Islamiyya". In the past five years, she has been a presenter in national conferences including ACTFL, ISNA, CAIS, NCOLCTL, NECTFL and the Muslim Conference. In addition to participating in ISNA this year, she is also presenting in CLTA.

9:00-10:15 AM

Balboa Bay 1

Islamic Studies & Character Building

Mindfulness in the Classroom: Teaching Children Self-Awareness and Self-Regulation

Wadud Hassan

The purpose of effective parenting, teaching, or discipline is not obedience or control; rather it is teaching students tools to engage in deep self-awareness and self-regulation to become the best version of themselves. This workshop is designed with that purpose in mind and will closely look at how to model and teach mindfulness as well as how to use mindfulness for discipline and behavior management.

Wadud Hassan, M.Ed., is Co-founder & Chief Leadership Coach of Define 360 (www.define360.online), earned certification in Leadership & Principals Training from Harvard University, IDEO, and the Neuroscience Academy, is a Strategy and Organizational Design Consultant with Enshera (www.enshera.com), and Partner in Diversity Wealth (www.diversitywealth.com). He was a teacher, co-founder and principal of 3 K-12 schools in Dallas. Wadud completed his M. Ed from Vanderbilt in Leadership & Organizational Performance. He is passionate about emotional intelligence research, mentoring youth, and the importance of faith based mental health and life skills coaching. He currently leads the training and development of a diversity infused servant-leadership development program at a major city in Dallas, led the R&D of the Founders to CEO Succession Leadership Development Program at the Nashville Entrepreneurship Center, worked with the Metro Nashville Public Schools on Human Capital Diversity Strategy.

10:45-12:00 PM

Pacific Ballroom 4

Curriculum & Instruction

TBD

10:45-12:00 PM

Emerald Bay 3

School Leadership

Exceptional Board Development: Principles of Governance and Leadership.

Mussarut Jabeen

Current research identifies the importance of how and why private/independent school boards should work closely with the school leadership and all other stakeholders. There's an urgent need for school boards to know and understand their roles and responsibilities to educate themselves in order to improve the school culture and student learning. Research findings demonstrate the need for school governance to set short-term and long-term goals for overall school improvement by collaborating with all stakeholders.

Mussarut Jabeen holds a Master of Science Degree in Educational Leadership. She has National Mentor Certification from NAESP. She is trained by the NC Department of Public Instruction for teacher and principal evaluation, and is Advanc-Ed Trained QAR Chair. Jabeen currently serves as a Board of Director of The Islamic Schools League of America and serves as a co-chair of the Annual Leadership Retreat. She represents Islamic Schools on the Council of American Private Education. Jabeen visited Finland to understand their phenomenal educational system.

10:45-12:00 PM

Emerald Bay 1-2

Arabic and Quranic Studies

Digital Tools in Education

Marwa Thabet

In the 21st century, using technology in the classroom became a must to engage your students and help them develop technology literacy that is essential for their career success. In this session, you will not only learn about new digital tools that you could use on Monday to create interactive activities and assessments, you will also see examples of how to use these tools. In addition, the session will include digital tools that allow teachers to create interactive activities without requiring any students' electronic devices. **It is recommended to bring your laptop, iPad, or smart phone to this session.*

Marwa Thabet teaches and designs Arabic courses at Western High School. She has been teaching middle and high school students since 2008 and contributed to the development of STARTALK Arabic model curricula. Thabet received her bachelor degree in French from Faculty of Al-Asun, Ain Shams University in Cairo; her Single Subject Teaching Credential in Arabic from California State University-Fullerton; and her Masters degree in education from Cal Poly-Pomona. Completing all her degrees with excellence, Thabet became a member of Golden Key International Honour Society. In addition, Thabet studied "Tajweed" for five years in Cairo and is a certified "Nouraniyah" trainer by Al-Furqan Institute in Saudi Arabia.

10:45-12:00 PM

Balboa Bay 1

Islamic Studies & Character Building

Developing Grace and Courtesy in the Classroom

Rukayat Yakub

An English word that expresses the essence of *Rahma* is grace. How do we bring grace into the classroom? Courtesy is one word we can use to describe *Adab*. In this presentation, learn practical ways that a teacher can imbibe their classroom with Grace and Courtesy so it becomes a lived reality and naturally develops through each day and throughout the school year. A three-prong approach involves the development of the teacher, direct lessons, and stories that set the tone for the classroom.

Rukayat Yakub is an education activist based in New Jersey. Rukayat loves history and education, and establishing Light Legacy Books in 2017 enabled her to bring these two loves together. Rukayat is an AMI trained Montessori teacher and has worked in education and research for two decades.

2:00-3:15 PM

Pacific Ballroom 4

Curriculum & Instruction

How to Roll With a Class You Can't Control

Susan Labadi

Are you spending more time disciplining than teaching? Do you cringe at the thought of a certain class? Do you go home feeling exhausted and defeated, dreading the next day? An uncontrollable class can make teaching a nightmare, so let's talk about managing your uncontrollable class. It takes planning and some extra secrets to success. Learn how you can be effective and give students what they need most.

Susan Labadi has been training teachers and administrators for 15 years and created Genius School, Inc. to develop Islamic schools, brand and develop marketing strategies for companies in the halal industry, and develop entrepreneurs. Susan has managed the website, social media, editing and writing for The American Halal Association. She writes articles for Thomson Reuters' Salaam Gateway (Dubai) site, sits on the board of the American Muslim Consumer Consortium (www.muslimconsumer.org), is an advisor/trainer for Consultants for Islamic School Excellence (www.goCISE.org), and for DEFINE/Leader Launch (defineafterschool.org). She earned her M.A.T. in Secondary Social Studies from National-Louis University, a B.A. degree in Psychology and Sociology from Northern Illinois University, and is the chairperson for the ISNA Education Forums in Chicago and Orange County.

2:00-3:15 PM

Emerald Bay 3

School Leadership

Office of Non-Public Education

Jenay Morrissey

This presentation will address the obligations of state and local educational agencies (SEAs/LEAs) in providing for the equitable participation of private school students and teachers in programs under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*, including *Title I, Part A, Title II, Part A, Title III, Part A* and *Title IV, Parts A and B*. Topics addressed will include: the requirements of LEAs to conduct timely and meaningful consultation; expenditures for equitable services; the delivery of equitable services; and allowable program activities.

Jenay Morrisey is a Management and Program Analyst with the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Non-Public Education. In this role, she assists in developing federal education program regulations, guidance and resources that serve to promote program responsiveness and effectiveness relating to the equitable participation of private school students and teachers under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*. Jenay also provides technical assistance through presentations at national meetings and workshops. Prior to joining the U.S. Department of Education, Jenay served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Morocco where she taught English and life skills courses and developed programs promoting women's involvement in higher education and extracurricular activities. Jenay earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and a Master of Arts in Counseling and Guidance from the University of Missouri.

2:00-3:15 PM

Emerald Bay 1-2

Arabic and Quranic Studies

Going Cyber: Concepts and Tools

Jana Samar Dalati and Amal Toameh

Taking Advantage of Internet and Media to Benefit Sunday Schools

Today, thanks to the internet, teachers have access to a wide array of resources and supplemental material to prepare for their multidisciplinary classrooms. These range from websites specifically designed for teachers and AFL learners, to sites that contain a combination of authentic and specially designed materials for teaching Arabic as a foreign language. This session will update you on these tools for improving your classes.

Jana Samar Dalati currently works as a master teacher in the Aldeen Startalk summer program in Pasadena, Los Angeles and also teaches Arabic to grade school students at the Islamic Center of Southern California (ICSC), where she was formerly head of the Foreign Language Department. She is also a lesson developer for Bahrain's International School Services. Her accomplishments include developing Alarbito Zadi, a program for teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language in Sunday Schools in 2000, and co-developing the Loughti Allslamiah professional book series in 1994 for teaching Arabic as a foreign language. Samar has also served as an elementary and middle school Arabic teacher at the New Horizon School Pasadena and as a teacher and Language Club Coordinator for the Pasadena School District. Samar began her career as an Arabic Language Art and Literature professor at Damascus University, where she earned a B.A. in the field of Arabic Language and Arts. She went on to obtain a M.A. in the field of education and was further credentialed in the field of psychology.

The Utilization of a Flipped Learning Strategy for Arabic and Islamic Studies Teachers

For the weekend Islamic School teacher, time is limited, and it can be very difficult to introduce all the material for a thorough learning of the Arabic Language or Islamic Studies. Teachers can use the Flipped Learning Strategy that will allow students to access lessons during the week, so students come to the classroom prepared whereby precious time in the weekend classroom can now be devoted to honing skills, asking pertinent questions, and creating a student-centered environment that will benefit both teachers and students alike.

Amal Toameh has over 20 years of experience as an educator. She holds a Diploma in Education and a Master's degree in Creativity and Talent from Al Balqa University, Jordan. In addition, she has an Ijaza in Quran. Amal has over 14 years experience as a computer teacher, and IT

advisor. Presently she has been training educators on the implementation of thinking skills in the classroom. Amal has also published books in thinking skills, and religious studies.

2:00-3:15 PM

Balboa Bay 1

Islamic Studies & Character Building

Improving Islamic Studies Classes: Focusing on Excellence, Relevance and Delivery

Shaza Khan

Islamic Studies is arguably the most important course offered in an Islamic school, for it is here that students receive explicit instruction on the fundamentals of their faith, from core beliefs to obligatory worship. Yet, students often feel disengaged and unmotivated in these courses. In this session, we focus on three specific areas to improve our ability to teach students in a more engaging manner: Excellence, Relevance and Delivery.

Shaza Khan is the Interim Executive Director of the Islamic Schools League of America (ISLA), a non-profit organization that provides support to full-time Islamic schools. She received her Ph.D. in Teaching and Curriculum from the University of Rochester in 2009 where she studied the adolescent development of Muslim American high school students. She has worked as a Curriculum Developer at Noorart and has taught Islamic Studies at weekend and full-time Islamic schools.

3:30-4:45PM

Pacific Ballroom 4

Curriculum & Instruction

Hands-On Books-Closed: How to Be the Best Teacher You Can Be!

Tatiana Coloso

Have you ever found yourself losing the spark you once had for teaching? If your answer is yes, then this workshop is just what you need to rejuvenate your love for teaching. Statistics show that eight percent of teachers leave every year from teaching in the classroom. In this workshop, we will explore the status and reward of a teacher through the sunnah of the Prophet Mohamed (sa), discuss practical skills that will help you cope with the stress of teaching, and as always provide you with hands-on and technology-based activities to keep your students engaged in learning. With these valuable approaches to the classroom, you will not only leave ready to go back and teach, but your students will leave the classroom happy and excited about learning.

Tatiana Coloso has been in education for over 12 years. She is currently teaching first grade Islamic Studies and first grade core subjects at Al-Iman School in Raleigh, NC, where she is a mentor in Islamic Studies and a Team Leader. Her line of research focuses on character building and core subject integration into Islamic Studies curriculum, and vice versa, using hands on activities. Tatiana has a passion for teaching, nurturing, and stimulating young minds. This has created an enthusiastic environment within her classroom. She is also the author of the blog www.sweetilm.weebly.com where she creates, shares, and provides educational resources to Islamic Studies teachers.

3:30-4:45PM

Emerald Bay 3

School Leadership

AADAPT: School-wide Discipline and Character Building for Muslim Schools

Sabura Rashad

Behavior management is a critical issue for every school. There are various disciplinary strategies and theories, but few integrate the character and conduct that we aspire to develop in our Muslim youth. Muslim schools need to implement programs that reinforce Quran and Sunnah while incorporating the most effective research-based strategies for positive behavior interventions and supports (PBIS). What follows is an Islamic PBIS program (AADAPT) presented in an easily adoptable format.

Sabura Rashad has more than 20 years of experience as an educator, trainer, and administrator specializing in school development and improvement. She has designed and facilitated workshops on behavior management, data analysis and assessment, instructional strategies, technology and STEM integration, and response to intervention (RtI). Drawing from her wealth of experiences as an instructor and administrator, she has worked with Muslim schools, charter schools, and with home-school programs to achieve their goals for growth and excellence. She believes that a positive outlook and thorough research are important factors to the development of effective educational facilities. This motivates her to constantly learn, create, and disseminate relevant and innovative methods of instruction and administration.

3:30-4:45PM

Emerald Bay 1-2

Arabic and Quranic Studies

Putting Learners in the Driver's Seat

Iman Hashem, Ph.D.

Many teachers continue to struggle to find new, meaningful ways to develop fresh, engaging and effective instruction that ensures equal participation and accountability for all learners. In this session, participants will have the chance to explore various educational protocols that pave the way for deeper understanding of new concepts, build learning communities, and foster creativity and critical thinking.

Iman Hashem, Ph.D., is Program Director of Arabic Language at Occidental College Foreign Language Project. With her broad range of expertise in Arabic for K-12, she consults for major educational institutions and participated in the delivery of the Advanced Development of Language Proficiency Program at the Language Acquisition Resource Center, and designed a certificate program for teachers of Arabic and Arabic speakers at California State University – Fullerton. Ms. Hashem has directed, designs and conducts STARTALK workshops, and she has been a member of STARTALK education advisory team since its inception. She has received numerous achievement awards and honored recognition for her contributions to education.

3:30-4:45 PM

Balboa Bay 1

Islamic Studies & Character Building

Raising Socially Aware Students

Maisa Youssef

Islamic Schools have the perception that they are raising students in “a bubble”. However, Islamic Schools can educate and train students to have a strong Islamic identity while also being socially

aware. From “Black Lives Matter” to the refugee crisis, students can learn about other cultures, races, and religions through current political events throughout the nation and world. Students will learn about diversity and acceptance while strengthening their knowledge of their own religion and identity.

Maisa Youssef is going on her 6th year as principal of Orange Crescent School. She earned her bachelor’s in Information Systems from Cal State-Northridge and her master’s in Public Policy with a concentration in Nonprofit Management from UCLA. Ms. Youssef taught math for 5 years at a charter high school, where she established the AP Calculus program. She completed her second Masters in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies with an Administrative Credential.