



## The Arab Canadian Women Recognition Awards Ceremony 2020 Winners

### a. Iman El Sousy

Iman is a reporting manager at Wilfrid Laurier University with long experience in Information Systems, specially students systems in higher educational institutions. Iman prepares and submits official students reports to Ontario Government, develops reports that supports decision making and prepare a wide range of university analytical and statistical reports.



Iman worked for more than fifteen years at the University of Sharjah (UAE) in the ITC. She was a key person in the implementation of Banner ERP system, which is used in more than 2700 universities worldwide including Laurier. Iman's roles in both universities required high technical skills to accomplish her tasks. Iman hold BSc in Computer Science with high honours and Master in MIS (Management Information System).

### b. Duaa Al-Aghar

Born in Baghdad- Iraq, Duaa holds a master's degree in computer engineering. She came to Canada in 2006 with her husband and two children. She first volunteered with KW Access Ability and was later hired as a project manager, designing accessible websites for people with different disabilities for three years. She later worked as a Web Designer and Help Desk Support with the Islamic Humanitarian Service.



She is a member of Interfaith Grand River, as well as on the board of its steering committee. She is also active in the Collection of Muslim Women Bridge Peace Building, Parent Council at Waterloo Collegiate Institute and Northlake Woods Public School. She also volunteered with the Salvation Army, Muslim Social Services, Interfaith Grand River, KW Multicultural Centre, St. John's Kitchener, the Mennonite-Muslim Community, the Food Bank, the Coalition of Muslim Women.

Duaa uses her computer and web designing skills to better serve those in need, by improving websites for various charities to provide easy navigation, all at no charge. She also made several trips to my birth country, Iraq, to help widows and orphans have a fresh

start with a new life. She was awarded "The Women Who Inspire" award, presented by the Coalition of Muslim Women. She was also featured as a successful woman in the GTA area written and published in a book called 'The Muslimah Who Fell to Earth.'

#### **c. Dr Rula Abdel-Kader**

Dr Abdel-Kader has over 15 years of highly professional experience in dentistry and 10 years of orthodontics. She is a member of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario, Canadian Dental Association, and Ontario Dental Association. Dr Abdel-Kader obtained her Bachelor's degree in dentistry in 1994 and her degree of orthodontic specialist in 2000 from Syria. Her passion for dentistry and continued learning lead her to participate in a research project in 2009 at Western University Schulich School of medicine, before obtaining her Master Degree of Public Health from the University of Waterloo in 2014. Her desire to promote oral health lead to her involvement in oral health prevention and increase access to dental treatment by working with Healthy Smiles Ontario and becoming a member of the Oral health action committee – Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health.



#### **d. Zeinab Abdallah**

Born in Syria, Zeinab Abdallah (also known as Zeina) grew up and attended high school in Damascus before immigrating to Canada at just 18 years old, leaving behind her large family. Newly married after arriving in Canada, Zeinab totally immersed herself into a new culture with her positive attitude and good nature. While her husband was hard at work providing for their growing family, Zeinab learned how to drive and enrolled in English classes at Conestoga College, two essential skills she adopted to break down any barriers to success.



As her family grew to four children, Zeinab, who has had a love for sports her entire life, became a certified aerobics instructor and taught classes for many years at the Sheraton, volunteered for over 10 years at the YWCA, the Breithaupt Community Centre at the Region of Waterloo and was a minor soccer coach for years. Many of her past students would describe her as an incredible motivator, a mentor and positive influencer, always pushing herself to stay in shape and having a healthy lifestyle, challenging others to do the same. Over the years, Zeinab has been known as a second mother and confident to many of her children's friends. They knew they could count on her in time of need – a hot meal, a roof over their heads, a ride home, emotional support or even just someone to talk to. Many of those children have grown up and have families themselves and still turn to Zeinab as a confidant and for adult advice to this day.

Her love for community, children and people extended further to volunteering for Block Parent - one of the largest child safety organizations whose goal is to make all communities safer. She has also helped many newcomers to Canada by being a translator, to help them adjust into their new life in Canada. Zeinab is also a grandmother to ten children and always willing to lend a helping hand, never turning a blind eye with a smile and full heart.

**e. Fatme El Majzoub (Tima)**

Tima is a talented makeup artist with a background in the beauty services industry. She started her business officially in December 2018, when she got certified by Glow Academy in Kitchener and Waterloo. She offers the glamour make up line and have had the opportunity to perform her expertise inspired by well-known artists: Hindash, Colette Iskandar and Ali Andréa. Adept in color principles, eyebrow shaping, eyelashes, makeup and beauty therapy, specializing in daytime, special event and glam looks. She is highly-skilled in age-minimizing makeup and skincare routines. Tima is very proud that she has built a career for herself in Canada.

