The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to practice leadership through action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women’s Leadership’s website at http://iwl.rutgers.edu.
What is Breaking Narratives?

The Breaking Narratives Gala is for Muslim women by Muslim women. It aims to celebrate Muslim Women’s excellence in the workplace through a panel event that sheds light on the experiences of Muslim Women in various fields. We aim to connect working Muslim women to undergraduates with like-minded professional interests in order to build community and foster relationships.
1.2 IDENTIFYING THE CHANGE YOU WANT

A vision is a clear idea of the world you want to create.
Passion and Advocacy in the workplace

Arunadhe Shiyam, Safe Keepers and Wage Earners South Asian Working Women in the United States.

Muslim Minorities and HR Policies

Mahadevan, Jasmin, and Claude-Hélène Mayer Muslim Minorities, Workplace Diversity and Reflexive HRM
Diversity within the Muslim Community

Veiled diversity: Workplace experiences of Muslim women in Australia

Networking and mentorship

Networking and Mentorship Can Propel You into Your Dream Career
The Breaking Narratives Gala is a celebration of the diverse experiences of Muslim women. Our mission is to forge connections through intentional networking, foster challenging conversations, and build a sisterhood that transcends the event. We aspire to redefine narratives, inspire change, and cultivate a community that uplifts and celebrates the remarkable achievements of Muslim women.
Timeline

1. Wrapped up ideating SAP logistics and goals
2. Began finding speakers and space
3. Finalized speakers and started event prep
4. Finalized event details and budget
Gala Logistics

Estimated number of attendees: 100
Date: November 6, 2023
Location: Cook Student Center MPR
Food: Efes Cafe and Grill

Schedule

7:00 PM  Attendees Arrive
7:20 PM  Introductory Remarks
7:30 PM  Keynote Speaker
7:40 PM  Panel Begins
8:20 PM  Panel Concludes
8:25 PM  Closing Remarks
8:30 PM  Cake cutting and networking
9:00 PM  Clean Up
Speakers

Keynote
Dr. Atiya Aftab: Lawyer, Professor, Board Member at CILRU

Panelists
Dr. Amjad Saeed: Doctor of Pharmacy, Entrepenuer
Dr. Sylvia Chan-Malik: Scholar, Researcher, Author, Professor at RU
Dr. Elaf Saeed: Dentist, Teacher
Hana Hamdi, MPH: Engineer, Researcher, Data Analyst, Nurse
Shayma Al-Shiri: Director of Production, Illustrator
Panel Content

- Imposter syndrome
- Advocating for yourself in the workplace
- Navigating toxic workplaces
- Navigating Islamophobia
- Building strong support systems
- How to take pride in your work
- Advice
# Budget

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**TOTAL:**

**Balance (if any):** $8
Outreach and Marketing

• Instagram @breakingnarrativesru
• Friday prayer announcements
• Organization Posts: UMR, PSA, MFA, CASO, MSA, MPRC, IWL

About Us

The Breaking Narratives Gala aims to celebrate Muslim women excellence in the workplace through a panel that sheds light on the experiences of Muslim women in various fields. Our goal is to connect working Muslim women to undergraduates with like-minded professional interests in order to build community and foster relationships in a safe space. This gala is for Muslim women by Muslim Women. It will include networking activities, dinner, and a panel with Muslim women who are making progress in their respective fields.
Institute for Women’s Leadership

BREAKING
Impact & Evaluation

- Turnout: 85 people
- Instagram: 97 followers
  - averaged 40 likes/post
- Great verbal feedback
- Panelists networked amongst each other
- Potential to create a series of events with Muslim panelists
We recognise the multiple systemic barriers.

Muslim Women Connect works by the following principles:

**Community** – Building a community of support one another.

**Justice** – Ensuring justice in everything they do.

**Excellence** – Supporting Muslim women to strive for excellence in their personal and professional development.

**Balance** – Encouraging a balance between work and wellbeing and between deen and duniya.

**Self-reflection** – Embracing continuous self-reflection, self-development and self-care.

**Advocacy** – Supporting, celebrating and advocating for each other as Muslim women.
Feminist Leadership

- Storytelling
- Nurturing a community
- Building sisterhood and support systems
- Giving a voice to a marginalized community
- Exploring intersectionality
- Exploring advocacy
Lessons Learned

- Event Planning and Scheduling
- Navigating the Rutgers Ecosystem
- Understanding social media marketing
- Professional Communication and Outreach
- Importance of Feedback
- Learning from each other
- Burnout
Acknowledgements

- Professor Trigg, Professor Rajan, Professor Bunch, and the rest of the IWL staff and faculty
- Leadership Scholars Cohort
- Our advisor and Keynote Speaker, Dr. Atiya Aftab
- All of the panelists
- PSA, CASO, UMR, MFA
Bibliography


