

BILAL ANSARI

Address: 51 Walden Court, Berlin, CT 06037
Phone: 860.967.8250 Email: bilal.w.ansari@gmail.com

QUALIFICATIONS PROFILE

Highly energetic, successful higher education student affairs senior administrator. Extensively trained and experienced in crisis management, student development, and academic and personal counseling. Strong professional background in student services, higher education administration and campus community relations. Extensive experience with non-profit management. Exceptional in collaboration and outreach to multiple constituencies. Demonstrated record of leadership in developing community engagement-minded future leaders. Significant success with diverse undergraduate and graduate student populations. Enthusiastic advocate of civic virtue and service. Strong focus on ethical practice, mutual respect, and inclusion. Outstanding interpersonal and communication skills. Notable record of public service and collaboration within and beyond the campus community.

ADDITIONAL AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Decision-making. Team-building. Functional/technical skills-Microsoft Office and social media platforms. Project management. Strategic and operational planning. Budget Development. Time management. Web content management.

EDUCATION

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY, PASTORAL COUNSELING: Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA	2019
MASTER OF ARTS, CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM RELATIONS Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT	2011
GRADUATE CERTIFICATE ISLAMIC CHAPLAINCY: Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT	2009
BACHELOR OF ARTS, HUMAN SERVICES Springfield College, Springfield, MA	2002

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CO-DIRECTOR OF ISLAMIC CHAPLAINCY/FACULTY ASSOCIATE in MUSLIM PASTORAL THEOLOGY **2019- Present**

- Developing Muslim chaplains and teaching Islamic sciences for the practice of Muslim pastoral care.

DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT **2017-Present**
WILLIAMS COLLEGE, WILLIAMSTOWN, MA

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- Fostering educational opportunities and sustained dialogue for students, faculty and staff towards engaged campus conversations that foster diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Collaborating and serving as an advisor to student groups and on campus-wide and internal committees
- Establishing and coordinating outreach and education within the Williams community
- Supporting students, staff, and faculty in activism efforts on and off campus
- Direct advising and mentoring students and student organizations regarding their holistic needs, such as: Minority Coalition Steering Committee, Black Student Union, Blacks in STEM, Williams African Society Organization, Muslim Student Union, Hindu Student Union, Williams Jewish Community Association, Students for Israeli and Palestinian Dialogue, Story Board and Lehman Community Engagement.

DEAN OF STUDENT SERVICES/ DIRECTOR OF STUDENT LIFE

2014–2017

ZAYTUNA COLLEGE, BERKELEY, CA

- Leadership for the overall vision and effectiveness of student services for BA and Summer Arabic Intensive Program
- Development and oversight of student development activities and programs
- Integration of student life experiences with the College's educational mission
- Student counseling: personal, spiritual, academic, career counseling
- Oversight of Residential Life: training and supervisions of dormitory RAs
- Coordination of student orientation for BA and Summer Arabic Intensive Program
- Lead on Student Life Policies and Procedures
- Coordinate assistance for student wellness; make referrals
- Oversight of clubs, student organizations, student government
- Development and oversight of Student Life budget
- Student Affairs, Judicial Review, Admissions and Financial Aid Committee member
- Assistance with successful WASC Initial Accreditation application

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CENTER OF LEARNING IN ACTION (COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT)/ MUSLIM CHAPLAIN

2011–2014

WILLIAMS COLLEGE , WILLIAMSTOWN, MA

- Counseled and advised students from various religious as well as non-religious backgrounds
- Support of students in medical and emotional crises
- Taught classes on the intersection and ethics of faith and service
- Leadership role as member of Chaplains' Office on Commencement and Commencement-related activities.
- Regular communication with students, staff, and faculty to facilitate spiritual and mental health support
- Support and guidance for public service with student organizations (Lehman Council; Converging Minds, Black Student Union, Muslim Student Association, Interfaith Club)
- Implementation of the public service orientation program for first year students every year

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- Coordination of alternative spring break trips, domestic and international
- Oversight of student participants each year in service learning in Selma, Alabama
- Led and motivated Williams College First Year students to participate and take advantage of experiential learning opportunities
- Create curricular and co-curricular opportunities that aligned and expanded faculty pedagogical goals
- Created an annual Black Church Service on campus at the Thompson Memorial Chapel with the BSU and Chaplains' Office that continues

Notable Accomplishments:

- 2011 & 2013 Administrator of the Year Award at Williams College
- Created a winter intersession course on Islamic essential beliefs and practices
- Served as special advisor to Dean of College on race relations crisis management
- Provided direct aid and service in a disability services crisis and brought it to a successful conclusion
- Served on high-profile disciplinary judicial committee
- Collaborated with Chaplains' Office in creation of public gatherings of Williams' chaplains and students to examine Abrahamic religious texts (Holy Texting)
- Leadership roles: Committee on the Community and Diversity Committee, Claiming Williams, Young Men of Color, Faculty-Staff Initiative, and staff/faculty advisor to several student organizations of public service

PRESIDENT / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2011-2013

HIGHER GROUND I NC. , WILLIAMSTOWN , MA

- Provided executive direction to staff, board members and contractors for a start-up non-profit for disaster relief and replacement affordable housing community development
- Managed responsibilities to hire, supervise, and develop board members with formal reporting relationships as the leader of the organization
- Led and motivated Williams College senior administration to participate in giving land worth over a quarter of a million dollars to meet a public need in town. Fostered relationships with funders that lead to the growth and management of an operating budget of over \$100k and a development budget over \$40 million dollars
- Negotiated and led a public discussion around the ethical issues of poverty and privilege, affordable housing development and rural land conservation/preservation

Notable Accomplishments:

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- Co-founded and presided over the start-up Higher Ground, Incorporated, a non-profit organization made up of clergy, lay leaders and residents to care for the victims of Hurricane Irene (2011) living in a senior mobile home park in Williamstown, Massachusetts
- Managed the affordable housing relocation of 225 flood victims in a project with FEMA, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Williams College and the town of Williamstown

EVENING ADMINISTRATOR / RETENTION SPECIALIST/ COUNSELOR **2008–2011** TUNXIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, FARMINGTON, CT

- Administered overall responsibility of campus' administrative functions in the absence of the Deans of Tunxis Community College
- Ensured strict adherence to safety and security procedures on all campus activities and facilities
- Guaranteed timely response and coordination of crisis intervention while managing campus staff and students as part of evening administration duties
- Advised and managed most at-risk students to sustain academic progress
- Actively participated in ongoing creation and development most at-risk student retention program

Notable Accomplishment:

- Grassroots Leadership of Excellence Award in 2010 at the Center for a New Economy in New Haven, Connecticut for 15 years of ethical activism and state leadership
- Co-chair of the Interfaith Fellowship for Universal Health composed of hundreds of clergy who successfully united together to fight and win universal health care in the state of Connecticut in 2009

ISLAMIC FAITH LEADER **2009–2011** BUREAU OF PRISONS – FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, DANBURY, CT

- Provided religious services to more than 60 Muslim female inmates with focus on ethics, civic responsibility, self-improvement, and character building
- Established a legal precedent for a male imam to serve the religious and spiritual needs of incarcerated Muslim females, partnering with the Yale Law School

Notable Accomplishments:

- Founded and developed the first Muslim endorsement agency in the nation for both male and female Muslim chaplains

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→ Facilitated numerous national conferences as well as provided regional education seminars for fellow chaplains; pioneered Muslim female chaplaincy in federal and state prisons

ISLAMIC CHAPLAINCY CONSULTANT

2007–2009

ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, PLAINFIELD, IN

- National Islamic Chaplaincy coordinator of training, conferences, and endorsement of certification. Supervised 50 Muslim chaplains working in military, prison and hospital chaplaincies. Responsible for managing budget and volunteer board and staff

CHAPLAIN

1997–2008

BROOKLYN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION STATE OF CONNECTICUT – DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION, BROOKLYN, CT

- Rendered expert supervision to the daily functions of the chapel of more than 100 individuals composed of staff, volunteers, and inmates
- Counseled and offered pastoral services to inmates to re-establish mental condition and promote positive outlook on life, as well as to uplift the dignity of detained individuals through advocacy
- Managed, mentored, and assigned project tasks to religious volunteers in providing rehabilitative and transformative assistance to 1,030 inmates and 86 staff within the correctional institution
- Presided over the chapel that provided religious accommodation for over 20 faith communities while overseeing physical, spiritual, moral, and emotional development of all prisoners, staff, and contractors religious or otherwise

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Study of Professional Ethics Fellowship: 2010 ▪ Auschwitz, Germany

Federal Bureau of Investigation Citizens' Academy: 2010 ▪ New Haven, CT, USA

Department of Correction Professional Training for All Correctional Staff (Annual Training)

Federal Bureau of Prisons Correctional Staff Training (Annual Training)

Community Engagement and Professional Training ▪ NeighborWorks America

Building Community with Technology: 2003

Working in Diverse Communities: 2003

Grassroots Leadership Development: 2002

Supervising and Managing in Youth Serving Organizations: 2002

Value-Based Community Organization: 2002

Advanced Leadership Development: 2002

Strategic Thinking and Planning: 2002

Community Building Principles and Applications: 2002

Fundamentals of Community Organization: 2002

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ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS

Executive Board of Directors, Muslim Student Association West

Executive Board of Directors, Journal of Muslim Mental Health

Member, NASPA

Professional Advisory Group, UCSF Medical Center and UCSF Children's Hospitals

| Co-founder/ President, Higher Ground Inc. |

Town Councilmen, Affordable Housing Board, Town Committee for Williamstown

Guest Lecturer, Jerusalem Peace Builders, Brattleboro, Vermont

Advisory Board of Directors, St. Francis Partner's in Clinical Pastoral Education

Executive Board of Directors, Universal Health Care Foundation Interfaith Fellowship

Executive Board of Directors , Connecticut Center for a New Economy

Executive Board of Directors, Muslim Coalition of Connecticut