

Utah State University
from the IACURH region
nominates:

Ramadan Iftar

As NACURH/ACUHO-I
Daniel Siler Program of the
Year 2019



Table of Contents



Introduction and Overview Section

Pg 2: Summary

Pg. 3: Program Origination

Pg. 4: Educational Component

Pg. 5: Audience

Pg. 6: Goals

Pg. 7: Student Needs

Planning and Implementation Section

Pg. 8-9: Program Basics

Pg. 10: Student Involvement

Pg. 11: Marketing

Pg. 12-14: Resources (Budget, Supplies, Personnel, Campus/Community Resources)

Pg 15: Questions & Answers

Evaluation

Pg. 16: Evaluation Tools

Pg. 17: Successes/Challenges

Pg. 18: Lasting Impact Summary

Conference Presentation

Pg. 19: : Conference Presentation (Description)

Pg. 19: ACUHO-I (Relevance)

Pg. 20-21 Letter(s) of Support

Summary

Do you ever feel stuck in a world where, a widely held but fixed and oversimplified idea of who you are as a person or that what you believe in deep inside your heart, is the only thing that people really know about you? Ever been frustrated that you are labeled or stereotyped based on one portion of your identity and wished that you could help people understand where you are coming from in a safe, warm, and welcoming environment and within your various, diverse communities?

Come enjoy a cultural and educational experience while we show you how one group of individuals at Utah State University is breaking down these stereotypes and barriers, opening doors on campus and throughout the entire community. We will give you the resources to help you create experiences just like this one on your own campus.



Origination



Three years ago, Tien Lindsay, graduate student and townhome resident assistant and neighbor Manal Arab, then an engineering doctorate student were discussing stereotypes, microaggressions, ignorance and naïve comments, they have experienced while living in Logan.

Tien was raised a Buddhist, Manal a Muslim, they connected through identifying similar values and clarifying misconceptions of each other's beliefs.

The conversation inspired Tien and Manal to organize the first USU Ramadan potluck, to bring people together through food.

“Most people will tell you extraordinary things. Food opens up dialogue and context. People will talk about their upbringing, their family, their emotions, which leads to clarification. Then a person is no longer a generalization but a person that you can identify with.” - Tien

Educational Components

We learned the following:

During the ninth month of the Muslim year, Ramadan is held during which strict fasting is observed from sunrise to sunset. At sunset, when they break their fast, they do so with water and dates and prayer. Ramadan is observed by Muslims worldwide. It is held to commemorate the first revelation of the Quran to Muhammad according to Islamic belief. This annual observance is regarded as one of the Five Pillars of Islam. Because we have such a large group of people of the Muslim faith in our community we wanted to be sure to hold an "iftar" - which is the name for the meal eaten by Muslims after sunset during Ramadan.

The world we now live in is becoming more and more diverse. An increasing life skill is to be able to relate to those who are different from you. **As an educational organization our hope was to teach our residents what it means to have respect for those different than you and make all feel welcome in the community in which we live.**



Audience



Many of our students are international students, and several of these students are of the Muslim faith. This program was intended to **bridge a gap** in our community between residents of a variety of faiths by creating a **safe space** in order to broach the topic of religion amongst themselves and others. It allowed for people to learn more about this culture and experience. It also created the opportunity for people of all walks of life to ask each other thought provoking questions, discuss beliefs safely, and openly enjoy their differences. This was also a great way for people to make new friends and try new foods. There is diversity everywhere. We believe the shell of the program is to create spaces in our campus communities where it is safe to believe, it is safe to not believe, it is safe to be whatever you want to be. We think that **respect, honor, trust, and support** of whatever makes a person a person is an honorable effort and a worthwhile cause. When we utilize our community outside of just what is available on campus as well, we really can make a lasting impact together. We cannot think of a more **noteworthy** experience in the years we have lived on campus and in the community of Logan.

We think that every campus should have these kinds of experiences for their residents.

It was for everyone!

Goals & Objectives

The more you understand a culture the better you can relate to them. We want all in our campus community, & our off campus community as well to be an **inclusive community that has a high level of respect for others no matter their background.**

Our goal was to help students of the Muslim faith feel welcome and appreciated during their religious month. We also hope to continue to promote this as an **interfaith** event where residents from all backgrounds can become more **culturally aware** and appreciate Muslim practices and feel free to express their own religious beliefs openly and safely.

We were taught about the reasons, traditions, practices, and beliefs that stem from this religion and culture. We were able to ask questions, build friendships, and enjoy a variety of food from **all over the world.**



Student Needs

Our world can be filled with stereotypes, microaggressions, ignorance and naïve comments. When this program originated Tien and Manal used mutual connections by identifying similar values and clarifying misconceptions of each other's beliefs.

Tien had a strong desire to do something that would help bring people together and address the needs and desire Manal had to have people be more understanding of her culture. They decided food would be the best solution for bringing people together.

This year, however, our efforts were amplified and we quadrupled our attendance by inviting people from every religious group, our local community, and all of our family housing communities.

Due to the increasing success over the last few years, and a desire to provide an increasingly safe space for the expression of belief overall, this program is likely to serve as a staple, and inspiration for other program ideas to come. We will use this idea for the **blueprint** for other significant cultural and religious events and holidays.



Program Basics

There were 4 planning meetings prior to this event taking place. We utilized heavy coordination with the residents, Logan Islamic Center, and other community organizations who were involved for the planning and implementation of this event. We considered their input on every matter from how the event would feel, the decorations, what day it would be held, the best time of day for it to be held, what kinds of food we could provide, and how to create the invitations.

Residents helped set up the blankets/sheets that were designated for the prayer area. They coordinated efforts for every detail of this event. They invited their friends and family and other people in the community that they knew would appreciate this experience. The residents who are Muslim were able to share this experience with several of our other residents who are not. Commonly they sit on the ground to partake of the food. There were tables laid on the ground and residents sat discussing these things, what they saw, the food they were tasting, and so forth. We had little slips of paper on the tables to help prompt ideas of questions they could ask if needed as well.

We decorated the space with Patio lights, tea lights, and luminaries. There was a handmade fabric banner, 25 mini floral arrangements that were donated, we had 20 other vases with tea lights strewn throughout the tables. There were two tables decorated to the potluck food, an entire table dedicated to the different types of beverages made with fruit and more.

At the event the Mayor of Logan spoke, welcoming everyone and celebrating the diversity of the event. This was incredibly significant because it expanded our reach throughout the community to have her involved and increased the publicity, significance, and importance of this event. It helped the residents feel valued and appreciated. We then had a representative of the Logan Islamic Center who spoke, sharing the cultural significance of the evening & the religious background as to why they participate in Ramadan. A professor from the University also shared his background with Islam and was able to instruct and educate on the things that were going to happen.

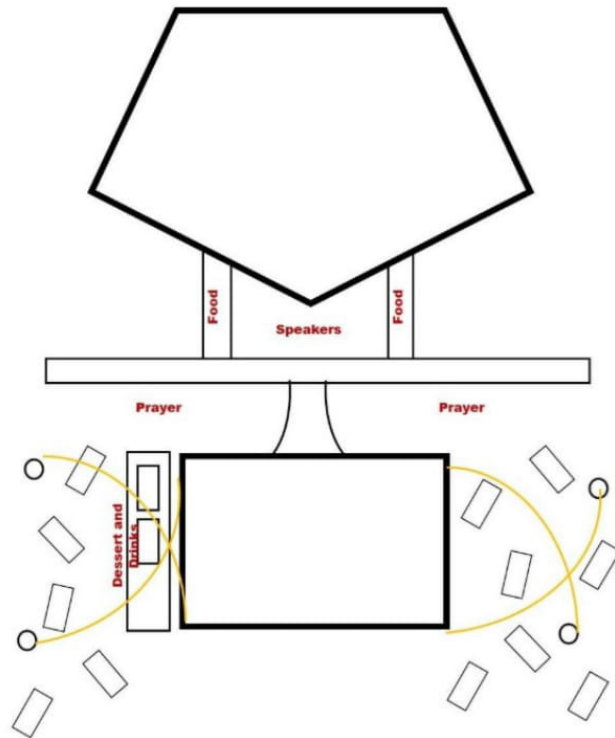
There was a prayer signifying the ending of the Muslim's fasting for the day. After the prayer was said, residents/participants were allowed to partake of the food that had been brought.

Ramadan Operations Plan 2018

	Monday
4:00 PM	
4:30 PM	Pick up: Tables and Trucks
5:00 PM	
5:30 PM	6:00PM Set Up Begins
6:00 PM	Set Up: Seating and Other
6:30 PM	
7:00 PM	Set Up: Decorations
7:30 PM	
8:00 PM	Set Up: Food
8:30 PM	8:30PM Activity Begins
9:00 PM	Activity
9:30 PM	
10:00 PM	10:00PM Activity Ends
10:30 PM	Clean Up
11:00 PM	11:15PM Finished

Date:
Monday June 11
Time:
Set up-6:00PM
Start-8:30PM
Clean up-10:00PM
Staff Attire:
Nice summer casual clothing with name tags
Place:
Aggie Village Pavilion and surrounding area
Food:
USU Dining Curry with rice
pound cake with summer berries from Dining
cookies from Crumble
Drinks:
Water, Resident Cultural Drinks

General Flow and Outline of Evening	
Team Members IC: Reed Operations: Shalleen Logistics: McKenna Public Information: Paul Liaison: Risha/Emily	Special Guests Mayor Holly Daines Whitney Milligan Steve Jensen Statesmen Faiths from Cache Valley Utah State Today



Program Basics Continued

Activity:

What do you value?

We all have different things that are valuable to us, whether it is family, friends, our job, religion or something else, part of life is enjoying the things we are grateful for. Many of us value similar things.

Please join us in this activity by writing things that you value on the card provided. This will be anonymous. We will gather them later in the activity and enjoy sharing what we each value together.

(towards the end of the event we read off the responses and had people respond with the word "me" so everyone could hear there were multiple people that valued the same things they did)

Conversation Starters:

(We also provided questions ideas for the residents to use as prompts to get to know each other better such as:)

"What are you interested in that most people haven't heard of?"

Student Involvement

Conception:

The conception for this program was **started by a resident** who chatted with her resident assistant about some commonly experienced stereotypes. That conversation resulted in the idea to have a potluck to bring people together to show them the culture and significance of Ramadan.

Planning:

The staff & residents involved in the planning had 4 different planning meetings where they met with representatives from the Logan Islamic Center and residents in our community who identify as Muslim to plan the logistics of the dinner, making sure all of their dietary needs would be fulfilled, and what they expected and needed from the evening as well. Their resident input was crucial in creating a space that was culturally authentic and sensitive.

Implementation:

Residents were invited to bring a dish to share, making this event a potluck. Muslim residents wanted to provide specific drinks that are made in the regions that they are from and that they have at each Ramadan meal throughout the month. The residents also provided dates to break the fast. They also helped set up the blanket space that was to be used for their prayer so that it would be facing the correct direction and give them the space they needed according to the customs and traditions of their culture and religion.





Ramadan

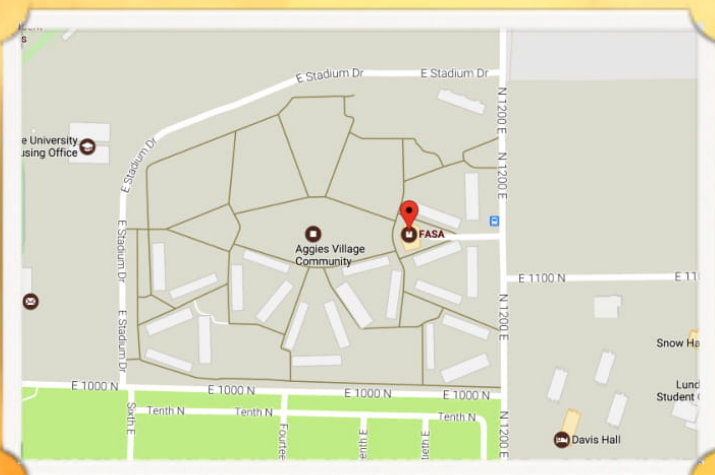
Under the Stars Picnic (Iftar)

Hosted by USU FASA & Logan Islamic Center

..... JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATION DINNER

THURSDAY JUNE 14 AT 845PM

..... Aggie Village Pavilion



Bring a side dish to share. Food sharing is a form of love and we hope to create understanding between people of different faiths and beliefs. At our event we want to promote solidarity and goodwill for one another.

Marketing

Facebook:

A facebook event was created so that people could invite their friends
The advertisements were posted to our community facebook page as well
leading up to the event.

A-frames:

White board displays in every parking lot of the family housing
communities.

Stairwell flyers:

Metal board where all advertisements are posted in our area.

Door Flyers

2-3 days before the event the resident assistants taped a flyer on every
person's door as a reminder.

Radio Ad

Played by the University Radio

Invitations to local organizations & congregations:

Local priests, bishops, leaders of these organizations distributed to their
congregations or posted in their churches/chapels/businesses.

Email:

Sent out to remind residents and give them the chance to invite others
outside our community.

Newspapers:

On campus - Utah State Today
Off campus - The Herald Journal

Budget

Expenses:

Tea Lights	2@\$9.99	\$19.98
Patio Light	8@\$6.00	\$48.00
Tablecloths	12@\$1.00	\$12.00
Sheets for Prayer	2pks@\$20	\$40.00
Luminaires Sand	1@\$7.00	\$7.00
Light Hooks & Command Strips		\$22.61
Dollar Store Vases	(Variety of Colors)	\$24.61
Hanging Lanterns		\$15.00
Dining		\$92.61
Balloons for Road Sign		\$2.97
Ice		\$11.96
TOTAL		\$296.74

We wanted to buy as many things that we could use again for this event next year and other future events

Donations:

USU Dining: \$100.00 towards whatever food we wanted catered

Plant Peddler: 25 mini floral arrangements of gerbera daisies, twine, and mason jars
a local cache valley business

Potluck Foods provided by residents/community members participating.

Cookies from Crumbl
a local cache valley business

Items Borrowed:

Tea lights from RHA

Handmade fabric banner borrowed from Tien
a new one has since been donated from RHA

Some of the patio lights from Tien



Supplies

5 boxes of tea Lights

10 Patio Light Strands

12 Tablecloths

4-6 Sheets for Prayer Space

Sand for the luminaires

Paper bags for luminaires

Light Hooks & Command Strips

Dollar Store Vases

Hanging Lanterns

Balloons for road sign advertisement

Tables (for food and for eating)

25 mini floral arrangements (gerbera daisies, twine, and Mason jars)

Handmade fabric banner(s)

Plates

Cups

Silverware

Speakers

Microphone

Poles or Stakes for Lights to be strung on

Food Labels (for people to write what dish they brought for allergy purposes)

Markers

Personnel

Residents:

10 on campus residents who are Muslim & 15
off campus community members

Incident Commander:

Reed Johnson

Operations:

Shalleen Balle

Logistics:

McKenna Voorhees

Public Information:

Paul Vicioso

Liaison:

Risha Russon/Emily Yamada

Special Guest Speakers:

Mayor Holly Daines

Professor Bedri Cetiner

Campus & Community Resources

Holly Daines, Logan City Mayor

Bedri Cetiner, Professor

Steve Jensen - Executive Director & VP of Finance for Housing &
Residence Life

Whit Milligan - Director of Housing & Residence Life

Tim Vitale - USU President's Executive PR/Marketing Director

Luke & Emily Yamada Photography

Logan Islamic Center

Plant Peddler (centerpiece donations)

USU Dining (donation & additional catering)

Crumbl cookies

Newspapers:

(Community: Herald Journal)

(Campus: Utah State Today)

Local religious organizations and congregations:

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Atheists

Buddhists

Catholics

Protestants

Questions & Answers

1. Could this program be replicated with other important dates or cultural events?

Absolutely! It is our hope in sharing that it sparks interest and ideas for a plethora of options. We have discussed other religious and culturally sensitive holidays that we could highlight and focus on. Because we have such a diverse population of residents in both our family housing and single housing there are a plethora of things we could do to replicate this idea for other important dates.

2. How can this be transition to institutions where students can't practice certain religions/where students could get backlash for their religious practices especially in this political climate we are currently in?

Our goal is to promote creating a safe environment for things of this nature to take place on our campuses. We live in a world where people do not feel safe, from religions, cultures, races, gender, and more. Our hope is that this increases **awareness** of ways that you can create safe spaces, spark conversations to promote understanding, educate each other on beliefs, practices, and come to a mutual respect for one another based on experiences that are positive and **promote common ground, acceptance, understanding, and healing**. We feel that this can be tailored to any organization, group, or situation.

3. What could be potential challenges that other schools could run into while implementing this program?

The biggest challenges are connecting yourself to organizations in your communities that can assist in promoting similar events. There may be schools that don't have an Islamic Center in their community or another organization if you are using the shell of this program to create a program for another group of underrepresented people/.

4. How did you ensure this event was culturally sensitive and authentic?

Our goal was to **utilize the community**, but specifically to **include residents** and members of the Islamic Center and similar organizations to help us ensure that we didn't plan or organize something that was not **culturally sensitive or authentic**. The residents helped create the atmosphere, they helped determine who could speak, who would lead the prayer, what food to serve, how to could include the entire community, and ways that would help **open doors to friendship, trust, and support**. The guided activities and questions were suggested by residents and created to ensure it was comfortable for all who attended.

Program Evaluation

We utilized a platform called asana where the staff who attended and participated in the planning and implementation of this event could provide **pros and cons** and any feedback for the event. For this event the staff verbally gathered insight and feedback from the residents who were involved as well and included it in their comments on this platform.

That information was placed to our reporting system (erezlife) at the time to create a program report where we combined the **feedback, facts, and information** about the event to provide a report that our professional staff members are able to read and evaluate the program with. We will use this evaluation and information gathered for planning again going forward.

Using the information from the report, and her own attendance at the event, Crysi Muhwezi, our current NCC, wrote a Diversity Program OTM for **June 2018**. This was selected as a **Campus** winner, **Regional** winner, and **NACURH** winner.

The program was **humbling**, it was **beautiful** (decorations and the experience alike), it was **intimate**, even with 150 people in attendance there was such a **significant level of camaraderie** and every single person of the Muslim faith was thanking the staff in charge for the opportunity to have such an event to allow them to **openly worship** however they saw fit. It was marketed in such a way that residents could come **support, learn, and grow together**. Opening it up to the community resulted in increased attendance, a **broader scope of education and understanding**, increased level of support and donations, and provided these residents with **warmth and trust** on a larger scale. It was truly an honor to watch the faces of these residents light up as they gathered together, conversed, laughed, and shared such a wonderful evening together.



Successes & Challenges

Challenges:

- * **Labeling foods** brought by other residents for allergies was harder than we anticipated. We would ask the residents to prepare their food and bring it labelled prior to the event next time to better prepare the residents who brought food for that.
- * Anticipating the **community attendance**: We have considered having a QR code for an RSVP so that we can anticipate who will be attending.
The Mayor: Maintaining open communication and ensuring that she felt this was a valuable effort for her busy schedule.
- * **The press**: We invited Tim Vitale to support this because he is the Executive Director of PR/Marketing for the University. We will always prepare for that by inviting him or ensuring that we know how to handle the press with his advice and instruction.
- * **Liaisons**: We had a lot of people interested in helping, but realized we need one cheif of communication with all the outside help rather than having multiple people in each organization. We would recommend ensuring that the communication goes through one person more effectively.

Challenge & Success:

- * Getting **the feel and atmosphere** just right while being **culturally sensitive for all** involved. While we see this as a challenge, it turned in to being one of the greatest successes because we **utilized our residents** so much!

Additional Successes:

- * **Decorations** elevated the experience for everyone. It set the tone/atmosphere/vibe/spirit to be one of the most **welcoming** celebrations and created a **safe environment** for all to speak and ask questions comfortably. It helped people feel valued, important, and for others to respect the occasion as a special honor.
- * **Donations** from dining, plant pedler, crumbl, & more made this more affordable. We could not have done the same caliber of an event without the plethora of donations from people and local businesses alike.
- * **Community Involvement**: We had an outpouring of love and support from the community. We had support from so many organizations & we had a lot of help planning and getting things just right from a variety of people which not only helped with the program itself but **created lasting relationships** working and personal with organizations, businesses, groups, and individual people.

Lasting Impact

Some of the lessons learned we will never know about because each person experiencing the event had their own experience. During the event we asked a couple of the female residents to explain the special circumstances in which someone would not fast such as pregnancy, illness, etc. One of the residents explained that they just make up for that time when they are able to fast again, meaning when they were able they would fast for all the time they weren't able to. That kind of **dedication** was incredible to hear and witness.

It is hard to measure lasting effects because they are **still unfolding**. One of the most beautiful experiences of this entire event was watching this group of people, who often feel judged, feel understood, accepted, and appreciated. We have never seen a program where more residents were just grateful for the **support**. One of the goals of programming is to meet the residents needs and we feel like this **reached beyond** just a small group of residents who needed this, to a community that really needed to see that being different isn't bad, and that all beliefs or non beliefs are to be respected and appreciated.

We live in a state that is full of diversity, but to be able to **recognize it, honor it, and support it** on this level is what we believe **on campus living is all about**. We go to college to learn, and this program taught us to really **appreciate all** people no matter where they come from or what they believe in. **Respect** has such far reaching effects that we can only imagine this program **continually changing** our community.

“This Ramadan dinner was a wonderful time for the community as a whole to come together and learn about each other. It is a great opportunity to keep in mind all of the different international cultures that are here in Logan. I feel like America used to be such a great melting pot of cultures, but now we are full of fear. If we are to make any progress into the future, we should be kind and caring, able to participate and learn about other culture and come closer as a community”

- **Reed Johnson** (Resident Assistant & Incident Commander)

“It’s amazing, It’s very heartwarming to see people that you didn’t know before coming just because of your faith to support you, and so you know that we share something in common.” - **Mubarak Ukashat** (a graduate student at Utah State, who was moved by the show of support for the Islamic community)

Conference Presentation & ACUHO-I Relevance

We will share the **impact video** we have created with interviews from residents and staff involved in the event.

We will hand out a **pamphlet** that will contain photos for inspiration, tips and tricks we found helpful, and provide a list of the conversation starter questions and the “what do you value” activity we utilized for this event.

We will provide a **water bottle and dates** for each participant (this is how the fast is traditionally broken)

We will also bring **decor** (on a smaller scale) so people can see visually what we used in more than just photos to get inspiration for Ramadan on their campuses.

Participants will be encouraged to use the **conversation starter questions** and the "**What do you value**" **activity** so that they can get a feel for what we did at our event to help those in attendance come to realize those around us really aren't all that different & we value similar things.

We will also have a **debrief** where participants will be invited to discuss the concept of this program and ways that it can be implemented on different campuses within their different communities.

ACUHO-I relevance: We believe that programs like this are significant and important. Student Affairs administrators will be provided multiple ways in which they can apply the principles taught in this program to a variety of other things on their campuses as well. We don't believe the delivery of this program needs to be much different. It may need to be tailored slightly to how they could encourage things like this to happen on their campuses in addition to how it can take place, but overall, the content will be the same. Diversity is all around us and this program is meant to inspire us to look a little deeper and dream a little bigger. We hope to be able to showcase that on every level with these conference presentations.

Institution

Letter of Support



Division of Business and Finance
1125 North 1000 East
8600 Old Main Hill
Logan, Utah 84322-8600
Tel: (435) 797-3113
FAX: (435) 797-4035
E-Mail: info@housing.usu.edu
www.usu.edu

Committee Members,

Thank you for taking the time to consider the Ramadan Program put on by the Family and Single Area at Utah State University for this great recognition. The Ramadan Program was the culmination of work put in by a number of very dedicated and mindful Resident Assistants who have seen the temperament of the society we live in within the United States towards those who practice the Islamic Faith. Many of these Resident Assistants didn't know much about the faith before beginning to work on the program and have learned a lot and developed a great respect for those that practice Islam. Through their collaboration with their own Muslim residents, the Islamic Center here in Cache Valley, and participating faculty and staff who helped to represent and explain the Islamic faith they now have a better understanding of the residents and community members on our campus.

The Ramadan program was designed to allow those unfamiliar with Islam and the Ramadan practice an opportunity to learn more about the faith and this specific holy day. Utah is not a very diverse state and opportunities such as these are rarely found in smaller cities so this was for many of the attending non-Muslim residents their first experience with any Islamic practices. The explanation of the faith and beliefs that preceded the prayer have helped many of our community members to see that they have so very much in common with their Muslim neighbors. It helped to break down some of the stereotypes and even fears instilled by media portrayals and the global events reported it seems almost daily in the news. For our Muslim residents it was a chance to help those attending the program to get to know them and their faith and to feel more comfortable being here in our community. Even without continuing threats of violence, of which I am unaware of any on our campus for many years, we have had many Muslim residents express fears of violence, intolerance, and acts of bigotry. The support from the University, other faiths, and the community leaders in the Family and Single Area helped to ease some of these fears so some degree for our Muslim neighbors.

I believe this program deserves to be the Program of the Year because of the impact it had in individuals and our community. It took a great deal of courage for a group of 30-40 Muslims to openly pray and share their very personal experience with us. All who attended were improved by this program and the effects for those individuals will be felt for the rest of their lives. I was personally in attendance at the program. I have studied a number of religious beliefs in the course of my undergraduate career, one of which was the Islamic faith. Even with that study there is nothing that will compare with witnessing someone practicing their beliefs in this way. I will forever remember the sense of awe that I felt and the respect that I developed for those participating in the prayer. This is how I know that others in attendance will forever remember this experience as well.

I fully and enthusiastically support the nomination of the Ramadan Program for Program of the Year and I hope that you're able to see through the provided materials just how amazing this program really was. Thank you again for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Workman".

Richard Workman
Assistant Director of Residence Life
Utah State University

Regional Letter of Support



TO: NACURH/ACUHO-I Daniel Siler Program of the Year Selection Committee

SUBJECT: Regional Support for Utah State University Program of the Year

DATE: November 20th, 2018

Regional Director
Jason Littleford

Associate Director
of Administration
and Finance
Mallory Gibson

Associate Director
of NRHH
Mary McNamara

Coordinating
Officer of NCC
Training and
Development
Julia Crocco

Coordinating
Officer of
Presidential
Relations and RHA
Development
Jorge Rios

Coordinating
Officer for Service
and NRHH
Becca Franssen

Coordinating
Officer for
Publications and
Technology
Angelyn Tabalba

Regional Advisor
Jamie Lloyd

Regional NRHH
Advisor
Jen O'Brien

Dear Selection Committee,

On behalf of the Intermountain Affiliate, we are proud to write this letter of support for Utah State University's 2018 Ramadan Iftar event. Ramadan Iftar brought together students on the USU campus from all walks of life, a diverse range of experiences and beliefs, and with an openness to learning about this cultural celebration. The program was rooted in diversity, inclusion, and education; all values that reflect the mission and vision of the Intermountain Affiliate and of NACURH. This program was a prime example of students' commitment to the development of their campus communities and to the promotion of cultural competency among members of their institution.

From the origins of the program itself to the execution of this event, Utah State was very intentional about each facet of planning that went into Ramadan Iftar. The program planners reached out to members of their campuses' international community of students, specifically those that celebrated Ramadan and had ties to the Muslim community, to ensure that they did justice to this event and made it as accessible to residents as possible. Throughout the planning process, students who signed on to help make the event possible learned about the traditions of their fellow students along the way and made lifelong connections with residents of the family housing communities on Utah State's campus.

The program itself was a great success not only because of its attendance and size or its marketing and promotion, but in large part because of student involvement. Students participated by bringing food for attendees as part of a Ramadan potluck, by bringing blankets so that students who were partaking in prayer during the event were comfortable, and by having conversations with members of the community about stereotypes of Muslims that persisted in their communities. This program went beyond engaging students to providing a platform on which they could become actively involved in changing the lives of their residents and improving their campuses' culture surrounding this topic. Ultimately, the program achieved its goals of unifying residents and creating space for students to feel welcome on campus.

It is with great satisfaction that the Intermountain Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls recommend Utah State University for the NACURH/ACUHO-I Daniel Siler Program of the Year. This program went through an intense, multi layered selection process and was compared to other amazing programs from our region's institution. Utah State has demonstrated through their bid that Ramadan Iftar embodies what it means to be the Program of the Year. We thank you for your consideration and wish you the best in conducting the selection process.

Sincerely,
IACURH Regional Board of Directors

Citations

Image [page 1]: <https://www.lephotofilm.com/>

Image [page 2]: <https://www.lephotofilm.com/>

Image [page 3]: <https://www.lephotofilm.com/>

Image [page 4]: <https://www.lephotofilm.com/>

Image [page 5]: <https://www.lephotofilm.com/>

Image [page 6]: <https://www.lephotofilm.com/>

Image [page 7]: <https://www.lephotofilm.com/>

Image [page 9]: created by staff to share as the operations plan for the event

Image [page 10]: <https://www.lephotofilm.com/>

Image [page 11]: created by residents and staff using publisher to advertise for the event

Image [page 13]: <https://www.lephotofilm.com/>

Image [page 16]: <https://www.lephotofilm.com/>