UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

IN RECONGNITION OF ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire (UW-Eau Claire) Student Senate is the official voice of the student body; and

WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire has committed efforts towards an environment of equity, diversity, and inclusion for members of its campus community; and

WHEREAS, Arab Americans are defined as U.S. citizens or permanent residents who trace their ancestry to, or who immigrated from, Arabic-speaking places in the Middle East which is southwestern Asia and northern Africa[1]; and

WHEREAS, large scale Arab immigration to the United States can be traced back to the 19th century[2], and

WHEREAS, the State Department of the United States has recently declared April as Arab American Heritage Month for the first time in 2021; and

WHEREAS, "Advocacy groups such as the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee and the Arab American Institute have been advocating to get April designated as a month to celebrate Arab Americans for two decades"[3]; and

WHEREAS, there are about 3.6 million people that trace their ancestry to an Arab country[4]; and

WHEREAS, Arab Americans have experienced an enhanced amount of discrimination since 9/11[5]; and

WHEREAS, Arab Americans have been the subject of harmful media campaigns falsely linking them to terrorism since the early 1990's and 2000's; and

WHEREAS, an Arab American Institute study found that most non-Arab communities falsely equate those of Arabic decent and those of Islamic faith; and

WHEREAS, Associate Professor Souzan Nesar claims that "Arab American students' lived experiences today are jeopardizing their academic success and emotional well-being. Some are living in a state of hyperarousal, trying to manage racing and unsettling thoughts in anticipation of danger, their minds and bodies on permanent alert"[6], and

WHEREAS, Arab Americans such as Dr. Michael DeBakey, Ralph Nader, Helen Thomas, and Bobby Rahal have enriched the political, economic, and cultural life in the United States[7]; and

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[1] https://news.jrn.msu.edu/culturalcompetence/race/arab-americans/
[2] https://www.baylor.edu/content/services/document.php/182127.pdf
[3] https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/05/us/arab-american-heritage-month/index.html
[4] https://www.arabamericanstories.org/arab-americans/demographics/
[5] https://www.justice.gov/crt/combating-post-911-discriminatory-backlash-6
[6] https://www.insightintodiversity.com/national-arab-american-heritage-month/
[7] http://arabstereotypes.org/who-are-arab-americans/arab-american-culture/contributions

WHEREAS, the Harvard Business Review reports that 3.4% of all invention patent applications had at least one Arab American inventor despite Arab Americans only making up 0.3% of the U.S. population[8]; and

WHEREAS, Arab American contributions and achievements often go unrecognized and unappreciated

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, Student Senate recognizes April as Arab American Heritage Month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Student Senate recognizes the contributions of Arab Americans to the United States and the world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Student Senate encourages the UW-Eau Claire EDISA division to create more programming for Arab American Heritage Month; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, President Ziebell will transmit a copy to Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; Teresa E. O' Halloran, J.D., Interm Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Student Affairs, Director, Affirmative Action, Title IX Coordinator; Grace Crickette Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration; Dr. Patricia Klein, Provost and Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs; LaRue Pierce, Dean of Students; Quincy Chapman, Director, Housing and Residence; Chris Jorgenson, Director, Gender and Sexuality Resource Center; Dang Yang, Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs; Grace Crickette Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration; Special Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Director, Blugold Beginnings;

AUTHORED BY

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[8] https://hbr.org/2017/02/arab-inventors-make-the-u-s-more-innovative