Project Rabia: A Workshop Series

Inspiring Muslim Adolescent Girls to Overcome Challenges and Achieve their Dreams

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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.
Addressing the social issue

The Muslim American Adolescent Girl

- My solution: An attempt to teach them how to cope with living at the intersection of Woman, Muslim, and American and dealing with the challenges that result from this combination of identities.
Multiple Layers, Multiple Issues

Conceptual Framework

- **Identity Politics:**
  - Today the Muslim individual is hyper-politicized.
  - The struggle of assimilation impacts the individual and their family and can result in many more struggles.
  - The concept of “hyphenated selves” among Muslim American youth

- **Psychology:**
  - Adolescent girls are more vulnerable today in Western society than ever before.
  - The developmental Bermuda triangle

- **Feminist Pedagogy:**
  - Small group pedagogy allows for individual realizations and understanding of how the topics discussed can be understood at a personal level.
Workshops: Tackling Issues Effectively and Creatively

The workshop programming model allows for different issues to be addressed over the course of a few meetings.
Challenges and Successes

The Journey of Leadership

- Challenges
  - Discovering how I lead
  - Flexibility
  - Project Sustainability
  - Future Impact

- Successes
  - Workshop improvement over time
  - Connecting with participants
  - Creating a platform of friendship, coping, and resources
Importance:
Why this matters to you

- There are about 1,900,000+ Muslims in America
- Half of them are women
- Cultural awareness and understanding
- Being able to relate to the different types of people you encounter in the future
Thank You!

From Project Rabia


