



Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (GLDP)

DIVERSITY & GLOBAL COOPERATION

FOR STUDENTS OF ISLAMIC UNIVERSITIES
CENTRAL ASIA

Arabaev Kyrgyz State University – Kyrgyzstan & Nur Mubarak University – Kazakhstan



March 20 – 22, 2021



The speed of technological development in the means of communication and transportation in our world today is creating a challenge for our Islamic universities who struggle to develop ways to keep our graduates competitive on a global level. If the message of Islam is “Mercy for Mankind – Rahmatan Lil Alameen”, then the graduates of Islamic universities have to be aware of the diversity within “Alameen.” Providing hands-on experiences and sharing practices is needed today.

Through activities, interactions and seminars, the 3-day **Global Leadership Development Program (GLDP)** in Central Asia has been tailored to help participants learn the best methods of sharing ideas, ideals and values within the human family. It will offer them the opportunity to discuss:

- Opportunities & Obstacles they will encounter following graduation
- “Internships” and available training programs

- The world stage and competition today between Asia, America & Europe
- Ways to become custodians of peace building, capacity building programs and leaders in professionalism
- Religious Freedom and what it means
- Opportunities to connect and lead on a global level



CECF is delighted to partner with these three great universities to hold the series of conferences in Central Asia.

Conference Convener

- **Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat, Founder & President of CECF and Al Basheer Seminary,** <http://www.cecf-net.org/about-us/team/>



Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat was born and raised in Damascus, Syria. He received a degree in Islamic Studies, Arabic Language, Islamic Law from Damascus University. Under the guidance and mentorship of the late Grand Mufti of Syria, Sheikh Ahmad Kufaro, he studied Qur'anic interpretation, wisdom of the "Shari'ah" and the Islamic spiritual teachings for 15 years. He accompanied the Grand Mufti during most of his international programs and conferences (1989 – 1997).

He served as Imam in Damascus (1981 – 1989) and was then invited to the U.S. to lecture in various Islamic Centers. He was Imam of the Islamic Society of Baltimore (1989 – 1993), founded An-Nur Institute for Islamic Studies and Arabic Language in Baltimore in 1993, co-founded An-Nur Mosque in Carney and was the Imam from (1995-1997). Currently he is President of the Islamic Affairs Council of Maryland.

He taught courses on Islamic Studies and Comparative Religions at prominent universities in MD and DC.

He served as Campus Imam at John Hopkins University (1993 – 2003), Adjunct Chaplain at John Hopkins Hospital (2000 – 2003), and Muslim Chaplain for Baltimore City Police Department (1998 – 2006).

Since moving to Baltimore in 1989, he has been heavily involved with interfaith work, both nationally and internationally, promoting better understanding between Muslims and other Faith Traditions. ([click on CECF's web-site link above to see his entire short bio](#)).

- **Kimberly King, Programs Director, CECF,** <http://www.cecf-net.org/about-us/team/>



Kimberly King, a native of Ohio, enlisted in the U.S. Army and traveled during her 4-years of service throughout the United States and abroad. After completing her time in the service, she moved to Maryland to pursue her degree in Business Administration and Management.

She has worked in various levels of management for the last 25 years, the most recent being **Programs Director** of Civilizations Exchange and Cooperation Foundation.

Since becoming Muslim in 1989, she continued studying Qur'an, Arabic and Islamic Studies in Islamic Centers throughout Maryland, DC, and Virginia before traveling to Damascus, Syria to advance her studies. She coordinated and led a study circle for Muslim Women in the Washington, DC area and has been a guest speaker for courses on Islam at various colleges, universities, mosques, churches and other institutions.

- **Robert H. Stucky – Program Officer, CECF & Faculty, Al Basheer Seminary,**
<http://www.cecf-net.org/about-us/team/>



Rob Stucky earned both a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art and a Master of Divinity degree from Yale University, as well as a Master of Anglican Studies degree from Berkeley Episcopal Divinity School. He studied Indian Philosophy, Yoga, and Meditation intensively under the direct tutelage of Swami Muktananda Paramahansa of Ganeshpuri, India, for nine and a half years, and served as an Episcopal priest for sixteen years.

He left the priesthood in 2002 to dedicate himself to the promotion of trans-cultural spirituality and intercultural understanding.

For the past fifteen years, he has collaborated with a devout Muslim friend, scholar, and Saudi diplomat, Sadig A. Malki, in promoting Faith in Diversity (FID). In 2016, at the invitation of Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat, Rob joined the faculty of Al Basheer Seminary, Interfaith Center and Institute, and the Civilizations Exchange and Cooperation Foundation (CECF), fostering mutual understanding between religions, and promoting the positive spiritual values and practices common to all traditions. ([click on CECF's web-site link above to see his entire short bio](#))

- **Gracie Davis, Programs Director, CECF**



Gracie Davis assumed duties as an Intern with Civilizations Exchange Cooperation Foundation in the Interfaith and Public Diplomacy Programs in January of 2019. Previously she served as an American Student Ambassador in Tunisia speaking on American foreign relations and taking part in national policy discussions. She was the youngest recipient of the Kennedy-Luger Finland-US Youth Exchange scholarship program where she spent time in the Finnish Ministry of Education and the U.S. Embassy in Helsinki. Miss Davis has experience in public relations and conflict resolution.

Miss Davis attends Texas A&M University, where she majors in International Studies focusing on Policy and Diplomacy in the Middle East with minors in the Arabic language and Military Studies. A member of the Corps of Cadets Squadron 6, she was named Most Outstanding Cadet in 2018. Her duties include Career Readiness, Public Relations, Community Service and Event Planning. As a cadet in the Air Force ROTC, she is assigned to Detachment 805.

- **Imam Arafat's team of volunteers include BUBW Alumni from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.**

GLDP in the U.S. & Europe

Selected participants from the GLDP in Central Asia will be invited to CECF's International GLDPs in the USA and in Europe.