

From: Melissa Marquez
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 2:49 PM
To: Ethnic Studies
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Arab Studes

Hello,

I am a college student and I support the ESMC including the Arab American Studies. I have taken, and am currently taking, a few ethnic studies classes and they have educated me on people's histories around the world that I did not previously know. I believe that right now many people are divided and dividing themselves based on assumptions made due to ignorance, these assumptions could lead to xenophobia and could attack a specific group, like Islamophobia. Telling the stories and experiences of West Asian Americans could teach people about the Islamophobia and xenophobia that occurs to this day. These ethnic studies classes educate students and could correct the assumptions that were once made. I also believe that the history of Palestine should be included in these programs. Finally, I strongly encourage Arab American scholars and Ethnic Studies practitioners to join forces with Arab American students for the students to have their voices heard and introduce new ideas.

Thank you for your time.
Melissa Marquez