

From: Jana Dolsen
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 1:10 PM
To: Ethnic Studies
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Invest in Arab American studies

Hi there,

I'm writing to you today urging you to include an Arab American curriculum in our state's schools. I am proud to be half Syrian; my father emigrated to the United States and has built an amazing life and family here, and it would have been amazing to learn about my ethnicity in the classroom. I think it will help so many students feel seen, feel a connection to the material, and connect with the people in those lessons that look like them and their own families.

I fully support the ESMC, including Arab American studies. The ESMC is structured around the core pillars developed by the founders of Ethnic Studies in 1969: American Indian studies, Africana/Black studies, Chicanx/Latinx studies, and Asian American studies. Following a decades-long tradition in higher education, the ESMC includes Arab American studies within Asian American studies. Leading Asian American scholars, including the National Association of Asian American studies, have issued statements defending the inclusion of Arab American studies in the CA ESMC.

I was not surprised to learn that Ethnic Studies has been linked to increases in positive personal, academic, and social outcomes for students. Why wouldn't you want all of that for the millions of students in our state?

Thank you for your time and I urge you to support ESMC, including Arab American studies.

Jana