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Two Laurier academics to be honoured by the Coalition of Muslim Women of KW

WATERLOO – Hind Al-Abadleh, an associate professor in Wilfrid Laurier University's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and Selda Sezen, an adjunct faculty at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary and PhD candidate at Laurier, are being honoured with Women Who Inspire Awards from the Coalition of Muslim Women (CMW) of KW. The awards will be presented at the organization's recognition dinner March 18 at The Family Centre.

Al-Abadleh is being honoured with an award for professional excellence. She is an accomplished researcher, teacher, role model and mentor who shares her passion for science with students and supports the success of women in science, technology, engineering and math.

"I am truly honored and humbled by this award. With a wonderful recognition like this one comes a great responsibility," said Al-Abadleh. "I hope it will inspire others to pursue their passions in life and to work towards the betterment of their faith community and society at large."

Sezen is being honoured with an inspiring leadership award. She completed her Master of Arts at Laurier in 2014, and is currently pursuing her PhD in Human Relationships, where she focuses on the parenting experiences of Muslim mothers. Sezen worked for the Ministry of Education before moving to Canada from Turkey, where she published two grammar books and two children's storybooks. She has received a number of awards as a graduate student.

"I am pleased and honoured to have been nominated and selected as a recipient who inspires and contributes to the well-being of the KW community," said Sezen. "I will accept this award for all women who inspire and nurture many lives without expecting any reward or recognition."

Al-Abadleh is an active member of the community, engaging with high school students and participating in inter-faith panels aimed at increasing awareness of the science behind environmental problems and the role of ethics and faith in formulating a values-based response to the environmental crisis. She has received numerous awards recognizing her academic excellence, mentorship, and work in environmental advocacy, including Laurier's Faculty Mentoring Award in 2015, the [MAX Platinum Award of Excellence](#), and the [Canadian Arab to Watch](#) in 2016. Al-Abadleh [received federal funding](#) for her research on air pollutants in 2016.

Before moving to Waterloo, Sezen worked at Algonquin College as an educator, was a director of a community learning centre, and dedicated her time and energy to community building — developing children and youth programs and weekly spiritual circles for women and organizing inter-faith and inter-cultural events in Ottawa. Currently, she works as an intern psychotherapist at the Delton Glebe Counselling Centre and as a spiritual care provider and chaplain at the Grand Valley Institution for Women. She is president of the Canadian Muslim Research and Resource Center and outreach coordinator at the Kitchener-Waterloo chapter of the Intercultural Dialogue Institute.

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The CMW of KW aims to strengthen and support the voices of Muslim women in the Kitchener-Waterloo area, and enhance communication and understanding between the Muslim and larger communities through the exchange of viewpoints, education and interactive community forums. The CMW Women Who Inspire Awards Recognition Dinner will pay tribute to Muslim women who have made outstanding contributions to the vitality and well-being of KW community. A keynote will be delivered at the dinner by the Honourable Maryam Monsef, MP for Peterborough-Kawartha and the Minister of Status of Women. Tickets can be [purchased online](#).

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