



## **Janan Najeeb**

Janan Najeeb, a founding member and the current President of the Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition has been a spokeswoman for Milwaukee's Muslim community to media outlets, government officials, interfaith leaders, academic institutions, hospitals, and a wide range of community groups. A microbiologist by profession, Ms. Najeeb left her career because of the tremendous need to bridge the gap between the erroneous perception of Islam and Muslims in society and the actual beliefs and practices of the overwhelming majority of

the world's Muslims. Ms. Najeeb serves on many committees and community boards, including the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, the Airport Meditation Room, the Committee for Interfaith Understanding and the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration. She is a frequent lecturer at many area colleges and universities and has served as adjunct professor at Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, teaching the Religious Culture of Islam. In addition, Ms. Najeeb directs the Islamic Resource Center on the south side of Milwaukee, which hosts Wisconsin's first Islamic public lending library. In 2015, she founded the Milwaukee Muslim Film Festival, one of the few cinema events in the country to explore Muslim affairs beyond the headlines. In 2016, Ms. Najeeb became the first Muslim to open the floor of the Wisconsin State Legislature with a prayer. Ms. Najeeb is a regular columnist for the *Milwaukee Independent* and has written for a number of other papers, including an entire pull-out section on Milwaukee's Muslim Community printed in the *Shepherd Express*.

Janan Najeeb is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions including the International Institute of Wisconsin's World Citizen Award, The Wisconsin Community Fund's Grantee of the Year Award, CAIR's (Council on American Islamic Relations) national award for activism, ACLU's Special Recognition Award, UW-Milwaukee's Scholar in Residence award, Dr. King, Jr. Celebration award, The Women of Honor award presented by six women's organizations including the American Association of University Women, the League of Women Voters, and the Unitarian Society's Womanspirit Group.

*Wisconsin Woman Magazine* named Najeeb as a "Leader Making a Difference."

Janan Najeeb is married and has 5 children.

