



World first tertiary-accredited Muslim Leadership Program announced

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In an unprecedented initiative to strengthen the leadership capacity of Australia's Muslim community, a comprehensive tertiary-accredited Muslim leadership program has been developed in Melbourne.

An initiative of the Federation of Australian Muslim Students and Youth (FAMS Y), the *Believe Achieve Inspire Leadership Program* is a multi-streamed leadership course, co-delivered by FAMS Y and Victoria University for the development of the next generation Australian Muslim community leaders.

Developed in response to the increasing demands placed on Australia's Muslim community for effective representation and leadership, the *Believe Achieve Inspire Leadership Program* seeks to enable future leaders with the provision of professional and Islamic-based development opportunities.

FAMS Y National President, Umar Batchelor, says the program is imperative for the effective development of future Australian Muslim leaders as it provides tertiary level leadership training with an Islamic insight;

"The *Believe Achieve Inspire Leadership Program* stems from FAMS Y's vision to facilitate the generation of effective, capable and inspirational Australian Muslim community leaders as it provides them with the insight, skill and knowledge they need to lead and motivate others within the Muslim and wider communities".

Designed for individuals that have demonstrated outstanding community service and a desire or motivation to continue, the *Believe Achieve Inspire Leadership Program* consists of two course streams; a professional development component delivered by Victoria University as developed in collaboration with the Chair Academy of the USA; and an Islamic leadership component developed by FAMSU.

Victoria University's Associate Director for Workplace Development, Damira Lopez, says the program aims to embrace the diversity and dynamism of the University's local communities and assist these communities in building their capacity to meet both local and international challenges.

"This is the first time a program like this has been attempted. Both FAMSU and my team have worked tirelessly to ensure a seamless and blended approach to the delivery, so that while Islamic beliefs are respected and adhered to, they are woven into universal leadership principle and common community issues," she says. "This makes for a wonderful tapestry of common goals and understanding for both young Muslim Leaders and the general community".

Speaking on the partnership with Victoria University, the *Believe Achieve Inspire Leadership Program* Director, Craig Dent, says;

"We have engaged Victoria University for the delivery of the professional development component based on their reputation for leadership education and their ethos of engaging with diverse local communities to meet contemporary challenges".

Graduates of the pioneering 12-month leadership program will benefit from an understanding of the qualities, attributes and mindsets of great leadership and a specialist insight into the responsibilities of Islamic leaders and the contemporary issues they confront worldwide.

The curriculum is presented by community and industry experts and includes; effective leadership models, Islamic perspectives of leadership, change and conflict management, diversity management, sustainability, innovation, governance and ethics amongst others.

Participants of the *Believe Achieve Inspire Leadership Program* are also endowed with opportunities to demonstrate community service and leadership learnings through the undertaking of various community projects, in addition to opportunities to network and receive mentorship from prominent key leaders.

The first intake of the *Believe Achieve Inspire Leadership Program* commenced in March this year with a second intake expected in early 2010. Participants of the program receive an award of Graduate Certificate in Management from Victoria University upon successful completion.

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Further information:

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