

(Pictured) The future campus of IQOU Theological College



The campus as pictured in the 1950's

Historical Designation P1

President's Letter P2

Inaugural Graduation P4

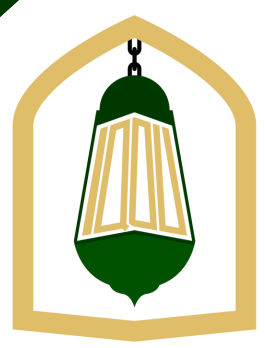


Faculty Spotlight: P3

IQOU CAMPUS RECEIVES HISTORICAL DESIGNATION

Lighthouse Academia Group (LAG) purchased and is currently renovating the segregation-era J. Murray Jeffress Elementary School into the campus of IQOU Theological College. We are happy to report that the future home of IQOU Theological College has been nominated for historical designation by the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. Originally built in 1952 as a school for African Americans, the Jeffress Elementary School was permanently closed in 2010 with virtually no hope of surviving.

Enter the Lighthouse Academia Group (LAG) whose mission is to “reimagine, rethink and revolutionize educational delivery” through its dynamic educational institutions like IQOU Theological College. IQOU Theological College is grateful to have the opportunity to preserve a piece of African American heritage and give back quality educational services to everyone in the community irrespective of race.



Message from the President

Welcome to success!

If you are a current or future student of IQOU Theological College, I am pleased to welcome you to a success that encompasses both your current life and also goes beyond the boundaries of this earthly life and extends to your hereafter as well, inshaAllah. The foundational philosophy which guides every aspect of IQOU Theological College is taken from one of the most profound lines of the Holy Quran. This is the ayah of Noor – Noor can be loosely translated as guidance, light, knowledge, enlightenment and love.

“Allah is the Light of the heavens and the earth. The parable of His Light is as a niche and within it a lamp: the lamp is in a glass, the glass as it were a star Durriyyun (reflecting), lit from a blessed tree, an olive, neither of the east nor of the west, whose oil would almost glow forth, though no fire touched it. Light upon Light! Allah guides to His Light whom He wills. And Allah sets forth parables for mankind, and Allah is All-Knower of everything.” (Surah 24 Noor, Ayah 35).

These words describe with symbolism the condition of a pure heart which shines brightly with the light of truth, knowledge, enlightenment and love, all reflections of Allah’s Noor. This heart is encased in the chest of the sincere believer and shines so brightly that it illuminates everything around it, thereby providing benefit to all who come in contact with such a heart. The goal of a true believer is to purify one’s heart in such a way that it reflects the Divine Noor to such an extent that selfhood and carnal desires are lost in favour of the Divine Will, whereby one becomes the embodiment of Allah’s viceroy on earth. I welcome our scholars to begin this exhilarating journey on the path to acquire the exoteric and esoteric knowledge required to develop such an enlightened heart.

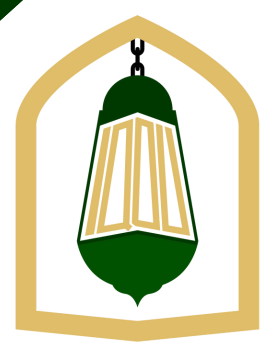
Al-Nu’man ibn Bashir reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said:

أَلَا وَإِنَّ فِي الْجَسَدِ مُضْغَةً إِذَا صَلَحَتْ صَلَحَ الْجَسَدُ كُلُّهُ وَإِذَا فَسَدَتْ فَسَدَ الْجَسَدُ كُلُّهُ أَلَا وَهِيَ الْقَلْبُ

“Verily, in the body is a piece of flesh which, if sound, the entire body is sound, and if corrupt, the entire body is corrupt. Truly, it is the heart.” Şaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 52, (All Agreed).



Sheikha Syeda Zainab Gillani
President
IQOU Theological College



Faculty Spotlight



Join us in congratulating **Alima Durdana Shakir** for the achievement of not one but two bachelors degrees earned in 2022:

Bachelor of Arts in Education
Educational Studies
Summa Cum Laude
Arizona State University

Bachelor Degree in Islamic Law
Hanafi Jurisprudence Faculty
of Islamic Law
Al-Azhar University

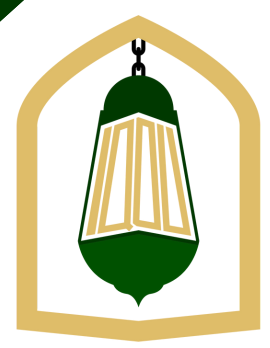


IQOU Theological College attendees lunch with Noor Academy school administration at the West Coast ISNA Education Forum

IQOU Theological College Attends West Coast ISNA Education Forum

(Costa Mesa, CA) Representatives of IQOU Theological College traveled to Southern California as exhibitor's at the 11th West Coast ISNA Education Forum the weekend of January 13. The forum drew attendees from all over the U.S. who shared a passion for education and contributed to the conversation surrounding the forum's theme "Reinvent and Design Islamic Schools of the Future: Building Upon Our Collective Experience." Visitors to IQOU's exhibit booth expressed their interest in the college's robust, currently all virtual, curriculum and were pleased with the quality faculty, scholars from the world renowned Azhar University. Several interested students conversed in Arabic with faculty member Alima Durdana Shakir about their desire to expand beyond their secular education to gaining

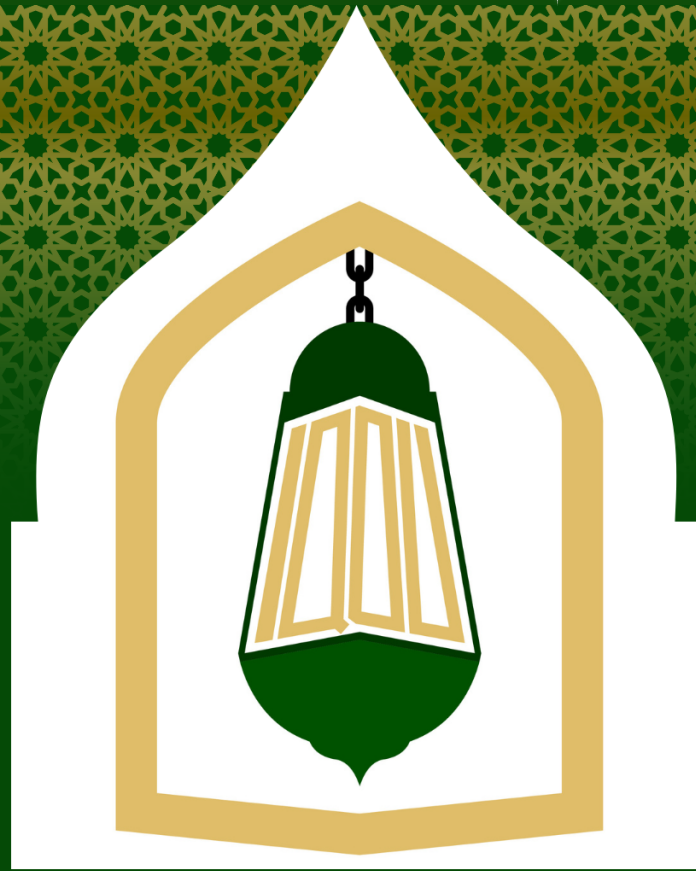
fuller knowledge about Deen-ul-Islam. Several mothers eagerly signed up their teens to receive more information after expressing a desire to direct their children into Islamic Studies programs that cultivate a love of Islam throughout their higher education journey. Those interested in public service to the Muslim community as leaders and educators were drawn to IQOU's emphasis on experiential learning achieved through internships, mentorships and study tours. Based in Virginia, IQOU Theological College has future plans to expand it's all virtual platform to a physical campus. "We are pleased that communities see value in supporting our college and the importance of expanding opportunities for higher education in the American Muslim community", said Nafisah Salaam, Chief Academic Officer.



IQOU GOES TO RIS CANADA

(The President of IQOU Theological College launched an introduction to the college at the 2022 RIS (Reviving the Islamic Spirit) annual knowledge retreat held December 26 through 31 in Toronto, Canada. During the convention, IQOU Theological College introduced its online programs and course offerings to the growing Muslim population as well as to renowned Muslim leaders from all over North America. Hundreds visited the IQOU Theological College exhibit table to meet faculty and learn more about the college's future goals. IQOU Theological College plans to conduct regular trips to RIS to maintain and strengthen connections.





IQOU THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Save The Date

INAUGURAL GRADUATION &
CONVOCATION



THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023
Charlotte Court House, VA