



For Immediate Release
October 12, 2009

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FAME FOUNDER ACCEPTS AWARD FOR WORK WITH MIDDLE EASTERN IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY

Alameda County Charter School Founder Recognized by State Senator Leland Yee and Arab American community for exemplary service to Bay Area Arab Americans

Fremont, CA – FAME Public Charter School (FAME) Founder and Director, Maram Alaiwat, was honored by the Arab Cultural & Community Center (ACCC) during its Celebrating Our Unity Gala on Friday, October 9th in conjunction with San Francisco’s inaugural Arab Heritage Month. Alaiwat was recognized for her dedication and service to the Bay Area Arab American community through the founding of FAME Public Charter School. FAME is Alameda County’s only countywide charter school serving the Bay Area’s new immigrant communities from the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

Alaiwat, the only honoree from Alameda County, was one of six Arab-Americans from the Bay Area honored during Arab Heritage Month for successfully serving the larger Bay Area Arab American community. State Senator Leland Yee presented certificates of honor to the awardees on behalf of the California State Senate. San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom launched the City’s first annual Arab Heritage Month on October 8, 2009 at City Hall. Arab Heritage Month highlights the achievements and contributions of the Arab American community to the Bay Area.

“It is truly a privilege to be honored for my work on behalf of the Bay Area’s Middle Eastern and Southeast Asian communities,” said FAME Founder and Director Maram Alaiwat. “FAME was founded to specifically address a void in the education community, providing educational opportunities to these traditionally underserved students. The past four years have been incredibly rewarding and I am so proud of the many accomplishments of FAME’s students, staff and teachers.”

FAME currently operates three public charter campuses and an independent study program, attracting students from seven counties, as well as from fifteen school districts within Alameda County. Growing out of the identified need to provide specialized instruction to the Bay Area’s large and underserved Middle Eastern and Southeast Asian communities, FAME is now leading

the way in closing the achievement gap within Alameda County's traditionally underserved immigrant communities.

About FAME Public Charter School

FAME Public Charter School (FAME) was founded in 2005 as the first and only countywide charter school serving Alameda County. A high-achieving charter school specializing in getting its students fluent in English and Arabic, FAME currently operates three public charter school campuses, as well as an independent study program. FAME serves Alameda County's diverse immigrant population, with the goal of preparing all its students to graduate and attend college. FAME strives to create an education community where students from all social, academic and economic backgrounds can learn to their highest potential. Visit FAME at www.famecharter.org.

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