



February 20, 2016

**National Association for  
Ethnic Studies**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President**

Ravi K. Perry, Ph.D.  
Virginia Commonwealth University

**Vice President**

Irene S. Vernon, Ph.D.  
Colorado State University

**Treasurer**

David Golland, Ph.D.  
Governors State University

**Secretary**

Natchee Barnard, Ph.D.  
Oregon State University

**Immediate Past President**

Ron Scapp, Ph.D.  
College of Mount Saint Vincent

**Graduate Student Representative**

Jesus Jaime-Diaz  
University of Arizona

David Aliano, Ph.D.  
College of Mount Saint Vincent

Susan Asai, Ph.D.  
Northeastern University

Khalilah L. Brown-Dean, Ph.D.  
Quinnipiac University

Marne L. Campbell, Ph.D.  
Loyola Marymount University

Craig Cook, Ph.D.  
Santa Barbara City College

Maricela DeMirjyn, Ph.D.  
Colorado State University

Joon Kim, Ph.D.  
Colorado State University

P. Rudy Mattai, Ph.D.  
SUNY-Buffalo State

Kenneth P. Monteiro, Ph.D.  
San Francisco State University

Darnell L. Moore, M.A.  
MicNews, The Feminist Wire, YOU Belong

Melvin T. Peters, Ph.D.  
Eastern Michigan University

**NAES NATIONAL OFFICE**

Virginia Commonwealth University  
P.O. Box 842542  
Richmond, VA 23284

Office Phone: (804) 828-8051  
Email: [NAES@ethnicstudies.org](mailto:NAES@ethnicstudies.org)

<http://www.ethnicstudies.org/>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NAES stands in solidarity with Islamic Center of Tucson (ICT) and the affected parties against the University of Arizona students who hurled insults and litter at its members. In light of the highly charged national debate about accepting Muslim refugees in the United States — as well as the mass shooting in San Bernardino, Calif., in December — tensions over the insults and vandalism here have run particularly high. The reaction to terrorism should be cooperation, understanding and sympathy, not more hate and provocation.**

The ICT serves as both a prayer space and a community center catering to all Muslims of Southern Arizona and the larger Southern Arizona community as a whole. The mosque functions as the university's de facto Muslim center; the Muslim Student Association has an office there. It also serves professors and professionals, as well as immigrants and refugees from Syria, Iraq, Sudan and other countries. Muslims in Tucson come from all walks of life and have called Tucson home for over 50 years now. The ICT provides a place of refuge and worship and is also used to organize social, cultural, and religious events for the Muslim community. They also participate in local community activities ranging from the Annual Muslim-Jewish Peace Walk to the Food Bank Drive to local interfaith programs and more.

NAES will continue our responsibility to represent the communities of our members and of people globally. Through scholarship, conferences and activism, NAES welcomes continued scholarly production and societal activism that engages all members of ethnic communities.

*The mission of the National Association for Ethnic Studies (NAES) is to encourage activities and scholarship in the field of Ethnic Studies. In promoting social justice and equality, NAES serves as a forum for promoting Ethnic Studies research and scholarship, curriculum design, conferences, and assistance to Ethnic Studies programs to develop civic minded and culturally informed communities and people.*