

Ahmad D. Al-Akhras, Ph.D., P.E., P.T.O.E.

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SYNOPSIS

- **Leadership Qualities** –One of first five inductees to the **Leadership Columbus Hall of Fame** since the program’s inception in 1974. As an inductee to the Hall of Fame, Dr. Al-Akhras have demonstrated significant leadership in volunteer and civic activities; served as a champion for a strong community through advocacy and promotion of quality of life issues; and inspired, motivated and engaged others in collaborative efforts in working toward the greater good of the community. Author, teacher and leader Peter F. Drucker said it right: “*Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things.*”
- **Sound Management and Organizational Skills** –Dr. Al-Akhras has a **consistent record of achievements and honors**. In academics, nonprofit organizations, and employment, he has always taken, or been asked to accept, additional responsibilities, thus reflecting his honest work ethic, skill in organizing work for expeditious completion, and ability to work under pressure.
- **Networking Experience** –Board member of numerous institutions, well traveled, connected with very culturally diverse groups of people will certainly bring a unique, fresh look and rewarding experience to the Department of Development.
- **Advanced Education** – **Ph.D. and M.S. in Civil Engineering**, specializing in multicriteria decision analysis, **M.S. and Diploma in Industrial Engineering** specializing in Operation Research and Management and many advanced training programs.



A community leader, Dr. Al-Akhras works to dispel the pervasive stereotypes many Americans have about Arabs and Muslims. In June, 1998 he helped organize the Ohio Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-OHIO), a national grassroots civil rights and advocacy organization. Dr. Al-Akhras is president of CAIR-Ohio, and vice chair of the national CAIR board.

Dr. Al-Akhras serves on the Advisory Board of the McMaster School for Advancing Humanities at Defiance College <http://www.defiance.edu/>, serves on the City of Columbus Community Relations Commission <http://community.ci.columbus.oh.us/>, the Community Refugees and Immigration Services of Ohio (CRIS-Ohio) <http://www.cris-ohio.com/>, and recently, he was installed to serve on the executive committee of the Ohio Conference of the NAACP www.naacp.org. He is a past member of the United Way’s Collaborative Committee on Race and Diversity (ACCORD). Dr. Al-Akhras helped establish, and served for seven years on the Board of Education of Sunrise Academy, a private elementary school in the city of Hilliard <http://www.sunriseacademy.net/>. In addition, Dr. Al-Akhras and his colleagues established the International Academy of Columbus www.internationalacademies.net, a charter school serving the disadvantaged and immigrant community. Dr. Al-Akhras has spent years working with religious and ethnic groups to bridge the gaps between different cultures.

Dr. Al-Akhras participates in educational forums, interfaith events, and diversity training to build understanding and cooperation between Muslims and the wider community. Dr. Al-Akhras works in cooperation with numerous agencies. Under his leadership, in 2003, the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio (ACLU-Ohio) www.acluohio.org bestowed its prestigious Liberty’s Flame Award upon CAIR-Ohio for its “actions and courage defending the civil liberties of Muslims, immigrants and of all American in a time of national crisis.” In 2004, he was inducted to the Leadership Columbus Hall of Fame www.leadershipcolumbus.org.

Dr. Al-Akhras lectures on important current topics such as the media portrayal of Islam, the perils of stereotyping, and the abridgement of civil rights in post 9-11 America. His speeches have taken him around the country, to schools, universities, civic associations, and city councils. In the last two years, Dr. Al-Akhras has been invited to more than 100 speaking engagements. Sample presentations include “Middle East: Reform, Democracy and Chaos” presented at the first McMaster Symposium held at Defiance College http://www.defiance.edu/pages/MS_speakers_symposia.html, First World Scouts Interreligious Symposium, Valencia, Spain, <http://www.scout.org/wse/valencia.shtml>, The Ohio State University President and Provost’s 2002-2003 Diversity Lecture Series http://www.osu.edu/news/1v12_news_story.php?id=404, Defending Hate with Hate, The Impact of 9/11 on Arab Americans and South Asian Americans, <http://sif.org.ohio-state.edu/APALSA-ILSA.doc>, Columbus Council on World Affairs’ 2003-04 Great Decisions Lecture Series <http://www.columbuscwa.org/annualreport.pdf>,

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Columbus International Visitors' Council "Diverse Traditions, Common Ideals" <http://www.columbusivc.org/>, Michigan Global Awareness Consortium Lecture Series "Understanding Islam and Muslims" <http://www2.kirtland.edu/mgac/alakhras.htm>, and a lecture series for the Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs of Central Ohio.

Dr. Al-Akhras has appeared on several media programs such as MSNBC, WCBE, WOSU, WTVN, BBC, Democracy Now, NPR and AlJazeera. He has also been interviewed and cited by a number of newspapers and newswire services on American Islamic issues. Dr. Al-Akhras maintains close contact with public officials and various law enforcement agencies to ensure a better understanding and treatment of Muslim. In 2004, Dr. Al-Akhras opened the Ohio Senate with prayer for peace and justice <http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=25337>.

Active in the Boy Scouts, Al-Akhras represented the Boy Scouts of America in Pakistan (1992), Senegal (1994), and Egypt (1997) at the International Union of Muslim Scouts. He served on the National Committee on Scouting. He represented Jordan at the First World Scouts Interreligious Symposium, Valencia, Spain.

Dr. Al-Akhras is a professional engineer by trade. He holds a doctorate and master's degree from The Ohio State University and a master's and bachelor's from the University of Jordan. He is a graduate of Leadership Columbus and Leadership Ohio www.leadershipohio.org programs, and currently serves as Assistant Director of Transportation for the Mid-Ohio regional Planning Commission www.morpc.org.

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