

February 21, 2013

A piece of Arabic calligraphy in black ink, reading "بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ" (In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful).

Re: World Interfaith Harmony Week application by Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations at Merrimack College

Dear Prince Ghazi,

I am happy to write you about my colleagues at Merrimack College. It has been a good four years of progress since we met at Yale University's "Common Word" conference in 2008. And a significant part of the good in interfaith relations is accomplished at Merrimack College and their Center for the Study of J-C-M Relations.

I am especially proud of the work they do because this past year they awarded the second biennial Goldziher Award for Jewish-Muslim relations to me, and I was honored to visit the campus in North Andover, Massachusetts to learn first-hand how seriously and thoughtfully they carry out their work.

For this year's WIHW, our colleagues at Merrimack were not satisfied to do one event, but rather did an entire week's worth of programming. You will read with pride of the broad range of sessions they offered to the students, faculty, and community there. Merrimack has been exemplary in leading the way in interfaith relations for the religious and academic communities here in the U.S.

I heartily recommend them for your award, as they so richly deserve it.

Best wishes and blessings,

Burt Visotzky

Rabbi Burton L. Visotzky
Appleman Professor of Midrash and Interreligious Studies
Director, Milstein Center for Interreligious Dialogue

cc: