*“Antisemitism and Islamophobia: Film Viewing and Panel Discussion”*

*Hosted by the Nazareth College Hickey Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue*

*Event date: February 6th, 2020*

For our event, “Antisemitism and Islamophobia: Film Viewing and Panel Discussion,” the elements of film, personal stories, and academic knowledge came together in a thought-inducing and enriching experience. Our panel speakers included Hava Leipzig Holzhaur, J.D. and Dr. Muhammad Shafiq, each one with a large breadth of knowledge to share with the audience members.

Hava Leipzig Holzhauer, J.D., is the inaugural Executive Director of the Konar Center for Tolerance & Jewish Studies at Nazareth College. As an attorney, advocate, negotiator and consultant, she has had over twenty years of experience combating injustice and hate, as well as in bringing people together. Leipzig Holzhauer began her career in employment law, working to secure justice for plaintiffs who were victims of workplace discrimination, including that of race, religion, pregnancy, and age. As an Assistant State Attorney, she fought hate crimes and was involved in issues of juvenile justice. Leipzig Holzhauer later shifted into non-profit management, running the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) statewide in Florida, continuing to combat hate through education, incident response and crisis management. Having founded Transformative Communications & Management, LLC (TCom), Leipzig Holzhauer now consults on both substantive and operational matters. She is a graduate of Tufts University, the University of Cincinnati College of Law, the Wexner Heritage Program and founding member of 100 Women Who Care, Rochester, NY.

Dr. Muhammad Shafiq is a Professor and Executive Director of the Hickey Center, holding the IIIT Interfaith Studies Chair at Nazareth College. He holds an MA and PHD from Temple University, and an MA and BA from the University of Peshawar, Pakistan. He has written more than 45 articles and several books, co-editing many as well. These include, *Sacred Texts and Human Contexts: A North American Response to A Common Word between Us and You* (2014), *Poverty and Wealth in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam* (2017), *Nature and the Environment in Comtemporary Religious Contexts* (2017), and *Making Gender in the Intersection of the Human and the Divine* (2019). Nazareth College was one of the first colleges in the United States to establish a center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue, and Dr. Shafiq played a fundamental role in its creation and success. He has organized conferences and workshops that give the community exposure to and tools for Interfaith Dialogue, including those who are not not only adults, but also young students from schools around our area.

Our panelists spoke on both Antisemitism and Islamophobia, providing personal stories of their own experiences with Antisemetic or Islamophobic acts, as well as giving an educator’s stance on these topics. Five short films broached these topics in different ways; For example, one film was of a popular comedian, using satire to uncover the illogical mindset behind Islamophobia, while another film showed news clips of recent marches against Antisemitism in the United States. Following these videos was a session of Q&A, allowing the audience members time to bring their own thoughts to the discussion table.