

Interchurch Center, Suite B 0245 SW Bancroft Street Portland, Oregon 97239
phone (503) 221-1054 *fax* (503) 223-7007 *Web site* www.emoregon.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact person: Carla Starrett-Bigg, (503) 221-1054
csbigg@emoregon.org

EMO honors Sahar Bassyouni of the Muslim Educational Trust with “Religious Education Award”

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) will honor Sahar Bassyouni, director of the Muslim Educational Trust’s (MET) Islamic School and Oregon Islamic Academy, with the “Religious Education Award” on May 11, 2017, at its *Benefit Dinner & Awards Celebration*.

Under Bassyouni’s leadership, MET provides compelling education about Islam both within and beyond Oregon’s Muslim community. MET’s dedication to youth education is exemplified by its superb pre-K through 12th grade college preparatory schools, and by its mentoring program that fosters faith-based community service and leadership skills. This holistic approach, incorporating a God-centered outlook on life, develops principled individuals capable of building meaningful bridges with those of other faiths. Bassyouni also speaks at numerous colleges and churches about Islam and Muslims.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s *Benefit Dinner & Awards Celebration* is the single most important annual fundraiser for our vital ministries to the poor, the vulnerable, the hungry and the sick throughout the state of Oregon. Funds contributed by sponsors and guests enable us to serve those in need and to advocate on their behalf at the Oregon Legislature for a just, equitable and sustainable society. Each year we honor extraordinary individuals and organizations, such as Bassyouni, whose courage, moral vision and commitment to action have contributed profoundly to making Oregon, and the world, a better place.

This year, the event will be held on May 11 at the Portland Hilton, 921 SW Sixth Ave. A reception and silent auction to benefit EMO’s ministries will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m.; dinner, a live auction and the award presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m. Reservations, available at www.emoregon.org, are \$100 per person or \$1,000 per table of 10. For more information, contact Carla Starrett-Bigg at (503) 221-1054, ext. 275, or csbigg@emoregon.org.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations, congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy.