

***Haifa Fakhouri, Ph.D.***  
***President and CEO***



Haifa Fakhouri is the President and CEO of the Arab American and Chaldean Council (ACC). A graduate of Wayne State University, Fakhouri came to the United States from her homeland of Jordan in 1968 to pursue her academic goals. After graduating she served as an International Advisor to the U.S. Agency for International Development and the United Nations Development Population (UNDP) as an international consultant on women and population policies in the Middle East Region.

Fakhouri's strong leadership and keen vision towards community economic self-sufficiency and the actualization of human potential for newly arrived immigrants became her passion. Her experience as a sociologist, educator and administrator enabled her to lead a number of supporters to establish ACC, a much-needed human service agency established to meet the growing needs of the Arab community. Over the past 29 years, ACC grew from a single office in downtown Detroit to 39 Outreach Offices with a multi million dollar operating budget in the tri-county area in the State of Michigan. She has provided a bridge for economic self-sufficiency and the actualization of human potential for the many immigrants.

Through her development and implementation of employment and training programs and her huge 36 million dollar development project to revitalize a dilapidated area into a thriving and vibrant neighborhood ACC is embarked upon the creation of a unique Middle Eastern Arabic Village within the city of Detroit. The project is a representation of the rich heritage of the Arab culture. Art galleries, artisan shops, Arabic restaurants, spice market, and an old Souk model (the market place) resulted in a vibrant commercial district that benefits all who live in the Metropolitan Detroit Area. Neighborhood renewal through the creation of an authentic representation of Arabic trade and culture helped bridge the gap between the Arabic community and the mainstream.

**Board and Commissions**

Fakhouri's academic and administrative leadership role has won her posts and appointments on several national, international, state and local boards, advisory boards and various commissions. She currently serves on the following:

- The National Association of Professional Women, 2010
  - World Medical Relief, 2010
  - Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Executive Committee, 2004 - Present
  - Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government Women's Leadership Board, 2007 – 2010
  - Board of Directors for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation, 2004 - Present
  - Detroit Institute of Arts, 2007 – 2010
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- International Women's Leadership Forum, 2004 – Present

- Automation Alley International Business Services Advisory Council, 2009
- John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, 2000 – 2006
- Appointed by Governor James Blanchard to the Blue Ribbon Commission on Human Services, 1998

### **Awards and Recognitions**

Fakhouri is the author of several unpublished articles and studies on the role and status of women in Jordan and Arab American and Chaldean communities: A socioeconomic and educational characteristics. In addition, Fakhouri is a recipient of several tributes, awards and appointments, among them are:

- National Association of Professional Women, Woman of the Year Award, 2010/2011
- Detroit Community Health Connection Community Partner of the Year Award, 2009
- Inforum Most Powerful and Accomplished Women of Business Leaders, 2009
- YWCA Outstanding Women of Achievement, 2008
- The Great Seal of Michigan Award given to high profile leaders, 2008
- Michigan Women’s Foundation’s Woman of Achievement and Courage Award, 2008
- Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame, 2007
- Crain’s Business Magazine Most Influential Women of 2007
- Michigan House of Representatives Special Tribute Award, 2007
- Who’s Who of American Women, 2006
- National Association of Women Business Owners “2005 Diversity Champion”
- Ellis Island Medal of Honor, 2005
- International Institute’s Hall of Fame, 2004
- National ADC Distinguished Service Award, 2003
- Olivet College Award for Leadership and Social Responsibility, 2003
- Humanitarian Award, 2002
- Oakland County Commissioner Leadership Award, 2001
- Lady of Charity Award by PIME Missionaries, 2001
- Spirit of Detroit Award, 2001
- Recognized by former U.S. Senator Spencer Abraham on the Congressional Record for ACC’s leadership and outstanding service to the community, 2000
- Special Tribute State of Michigan, 2000
- US Senate Special Tribute for Outstanding Leadership, 2000
- Detroit News Michiganiaan of the Year Award, 1999
- Wayne County Certificate of Recognition, 1998
- Wayne County Executive Outstanding Leadership, 1995
- Governor Engler’s Leadership Recognition Award, 1994
- Wayne County Distinguished Service Award, 1991
- Wayne State University Headliner Award, 1983