



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tamara Sullivan
513-583-1433
tsullivan1@cinci.rr.com

**BRIDGES FOR A JUST COMMUNITY ELECTS SHAKILA AHMAD
AS NEW BOARD CHAIR
*Five New Board Members Elected***

CINCINNATI, OH – September 22, 2009 – BRIDGES for a Just Community announces the election of Shakila T. Ahmad, a Muslim American, as chair of its Board of Directors, a diverse group of 45 community leaders. Ahmad was elected to a 2-year term. The board also elected Raghu Krishnamoorthy, Jill Meyer, Dr. Betsy Sato, Dr. Terry Kershaw and Dr. Sohaib Khan as new members of the Board of Directors. The new BRIDGES Board members have been appointed to 3-year terms.

Shakila Ahmad is dedicated to numerous civic and community causes and has been serving on the BRIDGES board for eight years. She is also on the boards of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Ohio Humanities Council, CET, the Islamic Educational Council and the Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati. She was the first woman to serve as a trustee at the Islamic Center and is the founding member for Muslim Mothers Against Violence initiative. Professionally, Mrs. Ahmad spearheads business development and management for the Allergy and Asthma Specialty Center and has 10 years of education and consulting experience with IBM. She is a resident of West Chester.

Raghu Krishnamoorthy, is the Senior Human Resources Manager for GE Aviation and a resident of Symmes Township. Jill P. Meyer, is the Member-in-Charge of the Cincinnati office of Frost Brown Todd and a resident of downtown. Dr. Betsy Sato is a retired University of Cincinnati Professor and currently works with the Housing Mediation Service; she resides in Union, Kentucky. Dr. Terry Kershaw is Department Chair of African Studies at the University of Cincinnati and lives in Fairfield. and Dr.

--(MORE)--

Sohaib Khan is a Professor and Vice-Chair of the Department of Cancer and Cell Biology at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and a resident of Montgomery.

“We are thrilled to have Shakila take the leadership role of BRIDGES Chair – she is an asset to this community and will serve our organization well,” said Robert “Chip” Harrod, president and CEO of BRIDGES for a Just Community. “At the same time, our new Board members represent the racial, religious and cultural inclusion that helps to make our region more attractive to business professionals and more livable for us all,” Harrod said.

About BRIDGES for a Just Community, Inc.

BRIDGES for a Just Community brings people together to achieve inclusion, equity and justice for all who live and work in the Greater Cincinnati community. As the region’s leading human relations organization, BRIDGES’ vision is to create a respectful, equitable and welcoming community for all citizens through education, advocacy and dialogue. Formerly the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) of Greater Cincinnati, BRIDGES for a Just Community has served the region since 1944. For more information, call BRIDGES at 513-381-4660 or visit online at www.bridgescincinnati.org.

###