



QATAR  
FOUNDATION  
INTERNATIONAL, LLC

عضو في مؤسسة قطر  
Member of Qatar Foundation

# Mentorship of Arabic Teacher Candidates

## Lessons from the QFI Cohort Mentor Program

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# Qatar Foundation International

Qatar Foundation International, LLC, is a U.S.-based member of Qatar Foundation dedicated to connecting cultures and advancing global citizenship through education. QFI is a not-for-profit organization in Washington, D.C., focused on grant-giving and programmatic activities that promote education as a force that facilitates collaboration across geographical, social, and cultural boundaries.



# Arabic Language and Culture Program

- Build bridges across cultures by increasing the number of K-12 students in the Americas with a good knowledge and understanding of Arabic language and culture
- Increase the number & quality of Arabic programs in public and public charter schools in the United States and the Americas
- Support the teaching of the Arabic language
- Increase and professionalize the supply of highly qualified teachers of Arabic



Increase and professionalize the supply of highly qualified teachers of Arabic

Via:

Teacher Fellowship program

Workshops

Summer Institute

Regional Arabic teacher councils

Dora Johnson Award (1st time ACTFL attendance)





# Arabic Teacher Mentorship Needs

Need for:

Follow up on teachers' Arabic-specific questions and needs

Ongoing communication, support, feedback

Guidance about process

Connecting teachers to resources

Guidance with certification process

Developing a growth mindset





# Role of Mentorship in Preparing Teachers

Understanding individual teachers' needs and addressing them

Communicating regularly to help ensure progress towards certification

Informing teachers about resources and opportunities that would advance them towards their goal

Caring listening & feedback

Transition from student to professional role





# QFI Model for Mentorship

- Need for mentorship
- Main components of mentorship:
  - Four mentors
  - About 11 teacher fellows per mentor
  - Communications (virtual, phone, e-mail) at least once a month, often more
  - Feedback about needs
- Summer Institute & ACTFL convention
- Recent development of CLV TAFL course





# Strengths

- Distinct benefits of mentor vs. academic advisor
- Beyond monitoring of meeting requirements
  - Ongoing feedback for growth through reflective conversations
  - Facilitating professionalization targeted to teaching Arabic K-12
  - Arabic-specific needs and issues
  - Certification requirements vary state/state
  - Overcoming geographical distance





# Challenges

- Teacher Fellows' lack of understanding of mentor-mentee relationship
- Ability of mentors to observe student teaching limited
- Ability to form cohort of mentees (budding professional community) uneven





# Discussion, Q&A





*A Thousand Thank You's*