

# Tatweer

## A Mentorship Program for Refugee Professionals

### HIGHLY SKILLED REFUGEES

The Puget Sound region has seen an increasing number of refugees that come to the United States with advanced degrees and years of experience in professional fields. Yet upon arrival, it is very difficult for these highly skilled professionals to find career-path jobs. As a result, many are forced to settle for low-skill, low-pay jobs just to survive. In addition to being disheartening for those individuals, this is a tremendous loss of social and economic capital for the entire community.

### THE SOLUTION: YOU!

You can make a huge impact in a refugee professional's life by donating your time and expertise as a mentor. Mentorship is the central component of Tatweer. Mentors are a lot like coaches. You will provide industry expertise, networking guidance and support for your mentee's career transitions. For refugees, the benefits of a mentor relationship are twofold: access to an industry expert and expansion of professional networks.

### WHY GET INVOLVED

#### Promote Dignity

By helping refugee professionals move closer to reentering their fields of expertise, you promote self-determination.

#### Amplify Your Impact

You will highlight the value of overseas expertise in your industry and empower your mentee to open doors for future Tatweer participants to pursue career advancement.

#### Support Our Economy

Moving individuals from survival jobs into careers adds value to the local economy. Professional mentorships can help increase participants' earnings

by 63%, resulting in an average of \$23,000 added to the economy per participant.\*

#### Diverse Talent

Since all refugees have work authorization upon arrival, Tatweer is a valuable opportunity to recruit highly educated and ethnically diverse professionals.

### YOUR ROLE AS MENTOR

#### Expertise

You embody what it looks like to be a professional. Coaching your mentee on the specifics of your industry, different possible career paths and relevant skills will help make him/her more competitive.

#### Networking

Your mentee will have few, if any, professional contacts. You will coach your mentee on building professional networks and finding relevant professional organizations and industry events.

#### Support

Many refugee professionals are overwhelmed by both the options and the obstacles that stand between them and career advancement. You will help guide your mentee through the process and assist him/her in identifying the right opportunities.

### TIME COMMITMENT

Each relationship will be unique, but you should expect to work with your mentee three to five hours each month, for a period of six months. Meeting outlines will be provided to help guide you through the process.

**For more information, please contact [tatweer@jfsseattle.org](mailto:tatweer@jfsseattle.org) or (253) 850-4065.**

