



In partnership with the SVSU Edwards Lecture Series and the Dow Visiting Scholars Lecture Series

## The Dr. Raana Akbar Lecture Series on Islam & Culture presents

# Religious Identity & University Discourse with guest speaker Najeeba Syeed, J.D.

Thursday, September 21st, 2023 - 6:30 p.m. Malcolm Field Theater  
(Entrance inside Groening Commons)

Prof. Najeeba Syeed will speak about how public academic institutions can foster interfaith dialogue, religious inclusion, and religious literacy. Why is it important to be knowledgeable about religious traditions? How can religious identity play a role in diversity and inclusion? What common religious values can be purposeful at the university? How might interfaith dialogue build bridges within the campus and to the wider community?



**Najeeba Syeed, J.D.**  
Augsburg University

Professor Syeed is the El-Hibri Endowed Chair and Executive Director of Interfaith Institute at Augsburg University. She has been a professor, expert practitioner, and public speaker for the last two decades in the fields of conflict resolution, interfaith studies, mediation, education, deliberative democracy, and social, gender, and racial equity. Her many publications focus on 1) faith and community-based conflict resolution, 2) restorative and healing justice, and 3) interfaith just peacemaking and social justice learning. Her mediation work on diversity, equity, and violence prevention includes clients from school boards, large corporations, federal agencies, and even the White House.

To watch online, or for more information, please visit [svsu.edu/drraanaakbarmemoriallectureseries](https://svsu.edu/drraanaakbarmemoriallectureseries) or email [raanaakbar.memorial@gmail.com](mailto:raanaakbar.memorial@gmail.com).

University Lecture Season:  
A Vision for the Future  
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The Raana Akbar Memorial Lecture on Islam and Culture was established in 2011 by Dr. Waheed Akbar in memory of his wife Raana, a former member of the SVSU Board of Control, physician and community leader. The Dow Visiting Scholars and Artists program was established through an endowment from The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation to enrich our regional cultural and intellectual opportunities. The William and Julia Edwards Lecture in Philosophy and Religion, established by a gift from the couple in 1993, annually brings distinguished scholars to SVSU to discuss timely and relevant religious and philosophical topics.

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