



ZAYTUNA COLLEGE  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

February 17, 2012

To: Board of Trustees, ING

One of the most daunting challenges facing us as our nation advances into this new century is adapting to life in a global village. Disparate peoples, religions, and cultures are brought into constant contact with each other in ways that can be simple or complex. In this new climate, the nation that is able to accept *and* advance intercultural and interreligious understanding, and on that basis, mutual cooperation, will be the nation that leads the world.

Perhaps no other religion is more misunderstood—while needing to be *more* understood—than Islam. As Americans, we must understand Islam, not only to promote peace and prosperity, but also to ensure our nation remains a respected global leader. In this regard, the pioneering work of Maha ElGenaidi and her team at the Islamic Networks Group (ING) is vitally important.

By introducing Islam through balanced presentations to law enforcement officers, civil servants, and future leaders in schools and universities across the United States, ING helps dispel the many falsehoods and stereotypes surrounding the Muslim faith and community. ING's work empowers Americans of other faiths and perspectives to build meaningful relationships with their Muslim neighbors, co-workers, and fellow citizens.

Through its interfaith education, ING is helping create a climate of mutual respect between Muslims and the broader American society. Such a climate is the foundation for the kind of just and equitable policies the United States must pursue with the Muslim world as it struggles to build freer societies and more representative governments.

We value the work of ING and are thankful to many of the people who helped make ING into an exemplary organization. We look forward to collaborating and enriching relations between Zaytuna College and ING in areas of mutual interests.

We congratulate ING on the occasion of its 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and wish the organization every success for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Omar Nawaz  
Executive Vice President  
Member, Board of Trustees

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