

UKROP COMMUNITY VISION AWARD RECIPIENT

M. IMAD DAMAJ, PH. D ('05)

Virginia Commonwealth University

Ukrop Community Vision: Honors an alumnus who exemplifies the spirit of LMR by taking the lessons of LMR to heart and acting on them, demonstrating genuine concern and respect for others, embracing inclusion, serving before leading, and creating solutions that result in positive change in our region.

In which locality do you reside?

Chesterfield County

What brought you here, and/or what has kept you here?

Work brought me here. I moved to the area to complete a fellowship at Virginia Commonwealth University after my doctorate.

What does it mean to you to receive the Ukrop Community Vision Award?

It means a lot! It is an honor to be recognized by LMR, an organization that works hard to make this region more connected and think differently. LMR taught me to think and connect locally and regionally and improved my leadership skills.

As a leader, tell us more about your work building bridges across the interfaith populace of our region.

The interfaith work that I do aims to create deep and meaningful relationships among people from various faith traditions. I believe that these relationships will lead to greater understanding, cooperation, and caring among these faith communities and will contribute to a more connected and compassionate Richmond region.

Why did you apply for Leadership Quest? What are your biggest takeaways from the experience?

I applied to acquire more leadership skills and be connected with leaders from the region.

What is your vision for the future of the Richmond region?

A more open and connected region that strives to be just and compassionate to all people.

What is the best advice you have ever received, and from whom?

"Don't stop pushing forward! The citizens of this region can redeem and fulfill the ideals of their ancestors, proving to the world that race and class can be conquered by the deliberate and prayerful intention of honest and dedicated citizens." - Rev. Benjamin Campbell.

What advice do you wish to share with regional leaders?

The work of building bridges never stops: history is not a linear narrative of progress!

Location: The Valentine First Freedom Center and Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom Monument.

