Education plays a critical role as a catalyst for social and economic change. Unfortunately, for many low-income and immigrant youth, a college degree is too often out of reach. Scholarships give vulnerable youth the opportunity to realize their future dreams through a college education.

Inspired to make an impact on the lives of young people, Basem and Muna Hishmeh, philanthropists and community leaders in New Jersey, established the Education Empowers Arab Americans Fund at the Center for Arab American Philanthropy (CAAP) to provide scholarships to low-income Arab American students attending William Paterson University of New Jersey (WPU). The Education Empowers Arab Americans Fund’s purpose is to grow the endowment of the Arab American Scholarship Fund at William Paterson University to $1 million, ensuring that young people have access to higher education for years to come.

Since its inception in 2011, 11 different students have received $62,000 through the Arab American Scholarship Fund at WPU. Centrally located just 20 minutes from New York City, WPU offers an outstanding education for Arab American communities within the region, including New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, and is committed to celebrating and increasing diversity by introducing new programs, opportunities and experiences to students and the community.

Will you give young Arab American students the opportunity to change their lives through a college education? Give to the Education Empowers Arab Americans Fund and double your donation! Thanks to the generosity of Basem and Muna Hishmeh, contributions will be matched dollar for dollar, up to the first $300,000 raised!
About the Arab American Scholarship Fund (AASF) at William Paterson University
The mission of AASF is to provide financially needy Arab students the funding to complete their higher education endeavors through yearly scholarships. AASF is committed to helping mold Arab youths into people of high capabilities by encouraging them to continue their academic careers. These students will become leaders in their fields of study and will contribute to the social and intellectual development of the Arab communities everywhere in the world.

About the Center for Arab American Philanthropy (CAAP)
CAAP is a national community foundation. A program of ACCESS, CAAP’s objective is to unite and empower the Arab American community by demonstrating the impact of giving together. CAAP improves communities by making grants to nonprofit organizations; serves donors by providing them with smart tools and resources to carry out their philanthropic giving; and builds leaders by educating and inspiring Arab Americans, including youth, to realize their potential for change. Most of all, CAAP shapes perceptions about Arab Americans by highlighting their generous heritage and exceptional contributions to society. Visit www.centeraap.org to learn more.

Make your check out to CAAP with “Education Empowers Arab Americans Fund” on the memo line and mail to:
CAAP, 2651 Saulino Court, Dearborn, MI 48120

CAAP is a program of ACCESS, a 501(c)(3) organization, and your contribution is fully tax-deductible. For more information, please contact Maha Freij, ACCESS Deputy Executive Director & CFO, at mfreij@accesscommunity.org or call 313-842-1928.