

HATEM N. AKIL, PhD

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ACADEMIC LEADER | PROGRAM MANAGER

Distinguished Record of Scholarship in Liberal Arts | Student-Centered Teaching | Professional Experience

Influential academic, scholar, and multi-disciplinary program manager with deep expertise in transforming strategic vision into effective implementation through measurable actions, campus-wide collaborations, and global networks. Designed and implemented curricular and co-curricular programs on a foundation of collegiate collaborations, academic excellence, and a solid commitment to teaching and learning. Trained in Reading Apprenticeship (RA) as a PLC leader and proficient in creating and curating faculty professional development programs across all modalities. Expert in the utilization of assessment to improve student learning and academic programs.

Brings to academic administration a vast cross-disciplinary expertise in traditional and new media, performing arts, technology, and film. Expert in student recruitment on a global level, and collaborates with teams in enrollment, admissions, and career and alumni success on employment and internship opportunities and study abroad programs. An executive decision-maker who fully understands institutional strategic plans and champions purpose-driven leadership and human-centered strategies to achieve transformational change.

- 10+ Years of Collegiate Teaching Experience
- 6+ Years of Academic Administration Exp.
- 20+ Years of Industry Professional Experience
- Supervisory Experience of Diverse Teams
- Expertise in Student Recruitment
- Expertise in Holistic Student Advising
- DEIB-Certified in Teaching & Learning
- Financial & Budget Management
- Collaborative & Collegiate Leadership
- Faculty Recruitment & Supervision
- Experienced in SACS-COC Compliance
- Cross-Cultural Communication

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Texts and Technology | University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Master of Fine Arts | School of Theatre, Film, and Television | University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

Master of Arts | World Literature | Damascus University, Damascus, Syria

Bachelor of Fine Arts | Academy of Dramatic Arts, Damascus, Syria

Bachelor of Arts | English Literature | Damascus University, Damascus, Syria

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

ASCEND HIGHER EDUCATION | ORLANDO, FL 07/2019 – Present
International Ed-tech and Education Management firm that helps institutions worldwide build robust internationalization programs.

Vice President, University Partnerships

Designed a 2+2 pathway to U.S. education for underserved students across the MENA region. Established multiple key partnerships with Broward College, IZU University in Istanbul, the University of Alabama - Birmingham, University of South Florida, and ADUC (Dubai, UAE), promoting academic partnerships, building joint programs, and enabling international students to access American higher education.

BROWARD CENTER OF TURKEY | ISTANBUL, TURKEY 07/2019 - 09/2021

Campus Director

- **Designed and executed strategic plan**, annual budget, technology adoption, enrollment management, and marketing, campus space acquisition and buildout.
- **Led all aspects of internal and academic affairs** including implementation and assessment of academic programs and policies. Worked with the academic dean and faculty to ensure the delivery of high-quality academic programs and learning experiences for all students. Created a culture of personal and professional integrity that supports innovative and model leadership.
- **Responsible for faculty** recruitment, hiring, scheduling, development, retention, supervision, periodic classroom observations, and fair and supportive performance evaluation.
- **Supervised academic support units**, including Institutional Effectiveness, Academic Program Review and Improvement, Academic Dean, and Academic Advisors. Supervised student enrollment, student scholarship program, and community outreach.

SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE | SANFORD, FL 07/2016 – 07/2019
Public college with 4 campuses and 25,000+ students across Central Florida.

Director, Reading Centers and Quality Enhancement Plan

Accountable for ensuring the college's regulatory and accreditation compliance by collaborating across functions with regional accreditors to manage the QEP program across all departments.

- **Reimagined the college's four reading centers as vibrant cultural centers**, enhancing academic performance, by transforming the QEP department through an innovative student-centered approach
- **Led program to become the cultural center of the entire county**, appealing to both students and the local community, complete with international speakers, art exhibitions, concerts, and film festivals.
- **Increased student retention and completion rates by 3.2%** across the college's 25+K students, leveraging a \$1M NEH grant to promote innovative instructional pedagogies, leading professional development programs, and growing stakeholder support.
- **Authored the QEP 5-year Impact Report**, a central component of the college's accreditation requirements.

MEDIA ORIENTALIS | ORLANDO, FL

01/2010 – 08/2015

Telecommunications wholesale carrier focused on building VoIP networks across 21 countries.

Executive Director

Founder of an international telecommunications network carrier to solve call termination issues for major telecoms. Developed partnerships with telecom companies/government entities, negotiating service contracts and bilateral termination agreements.

- **Built business from scratch, growing it to \$20M revenue with up to 50 global employees.**
- **Developed an agile distributed architecture global VOIP network in 21 countries** with sales offices in 6 countries.
- **Secured sovereign contract with governments of Syria, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, and Palestinian Authority, serving as only 1 of 2 companies to service Syria.** Collaborated with telecom companies and government officials, relocating to Syria for 4 months.
- **Generated hundreds of millions of monthly traffic minutes, reducing carrier costs, and expanding consumer options** by negotiating partnership agreements with small operators, international governments, and major global telecoms (Deutsche Telekom, Belgacom, and TeleDanmark).

EARLIER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Chief Executive Officer | OMNIAT International Telecom, Orlando, FL

Led the vision and go-to-market strategy to provide international calling services to North American migrant communities. Secured 50K+ new subscribers with the highest customer retention rate of any US carrier. Gained market control in under 2 years, overseeing 300 employees in 3 countries and delivering service in 6 languages. Managed the regulatory relationship with the FCC.

President | NetOne International, Winter Park, FL

Partnered with AT&T to create opportunities for underserved communities in the U.S. Secured 200K+ subscribers generating \$200M+ in ARR with a call center of 2K agents. Minimized employee churn and reduced customer acquisition costs by 28%. Generated \$10M+ in annual contributions to community non-profits. Invented prepaid direct dial and was featured at Prepaid Expo. Served as a system and process architect for a proprietary distributed billing/customer service application in Pro-IV, which saved the company \$1.6M+.

Founder & CEO | Telemanagement Advantage Corporation, Los Angeles, CA

Designed and implemented an industry-leading product, Facilities Management Plan (FMP), that enabled hotels and hospitals to operate as mini-telcos, resolving telephony problems for the hospitality industry and generating new revenue centers. Secured a \$20M strategic partnership agreement with Pacific Bell, establishing the largest CLEC footprint in the Western U.S. Captured 25% market share in California and Nevada in under 3 years.

COURSES TAUGHT

2020-Present	Valencia College, English Composition and Literature
2018-Present	Southern New Hampshire University, Humanities
2016-2016	Middlebury College, Intermediate Arabic
2014-2015	American Intercontinental University, Film Production
2013-2019	Seminole State College, English Composition and Literature, Humanities
2011-2012	University of Central Florida, School of Visual Arts & Design, Digital Media/ Game Development

SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Monograph:	<i>The Visual Divide: Image Perception within Cross-Cultural Contexts.</i> NY: Palgrave-Macmillan. 2016
Edited Volume:	<i>Global Modernity: Coloniality to Pandemic, a Cross-Disciplinary Perspective.</i> Amsterdam University Press. 2022
Book Chapter:	"The Missing Body: Figurative Representations in Islamic Iconography." Amsterdam University Press. 2022
Online Journal:	"Modernity-to-Come." <i>Sociologie</i> , Vol. II, n. 1, 2021. ISSN 2724-6078, 2021
Book Chapter:	"The Martyr's Vision." In <i>Re-Visioning Terrorism</i> . Purdue University Press. 2016
Journal Article:	"Cinematic Terrorism." <i>Journal for Cultural Research</i> . Routledge. 2016

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS ORGANIZED

Papers Presented

- 2022** "Tabbouleh Deterritorialized: The Memory of Objects." Cultural Inquiry: New Spaces, New Objects. Effat University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, May 18-19. Invited.
- 2017** "Refugee: Seeking Spatial Justice." 26th British Commonwealth & Postcolonial Studies, Savannah, GA, Feb. 17-18.
- 2017** "Youssef Chahine's Alexandria Quartet: A Spatial Analysis," Modern Language Association. Philadelphia, PA, January 5-8.
- 2016** "Cinematic Terrorism and the Murder of the Image." ACLA, Boston, MA, March 17-20.
- 2011** "The Martyr's Vision: Why the suicide bomber's eye is cast not to the sky but to the Other!" Purdue University, Sep. 9-10.
- 2009** "Sex, Veils, and Stereotype." Florida Graduate Research Forum, University of Central Florida, April 6.

Panels Organized / Chaired

- 2018** "Global Arab Precarity and the Contemporary US Academy: Race, Religion, Profession." Roundtable. MLA, NYC, Jan. 4-7.
- 2018** "Environmental Insecurities and Global Arab Humanities." Modern Language Association, New York, January 4-7.
- 2018** "Teaching Global Arab Comics in the United States." Modern Language Association New York, January 4-7.
- 2018** "Brecht in the Middle East." Modern Language Association New York, January 4-7.
- 2017** "Driving Gender." With Manal Al-Sharif. Seminole State College, October 25.
- 2017** "Immigration towards Europe." With Simone Maddanu. Seminole State College, October 24.
- 2017** "War as a State of Dystopia." With Robin Yassin-Kaasab. Seminole State College, October 17.
- 2017** "The Impossible Revolution" With Yassin Haj Saleh. Seminole State College, October 5.
- 2017** "The Ends of Freedom." Roundtable. Seminole State College, September 26.
- 2017** "Theatre, Censorship and Exile." With Naila Al-Atrash. Seminole State College, September 28.
- 2017** "States of In/Security: Global Palestine in Literature, Culture, Art, and Activism." MLA. Philadelphia, PA, January 5-8.
- 2017** "Writing Migrant Selves in Transnational Arab Contexts." Modern Language Association. Philadelphia, PA, January 5-8.
- 2017** "Beyond Bounds: The Refugee in Global Arab Literary Studies." Modern Language Association. Philadelphia, PA, Jan. 5-8.
- 2016** "Diasporic Communities, Transnational Publics, and the Global Arab." MLA, Austin, TX, January 7-10.
- 2016** "Politics of Solidarities and Cross-Racial Alliances." Modern Language Association Convention, Austin, TX, January 7-10.

ART EXHIBITIONS CURATED

- 2019** Quilts / Stories: The Art of Lauren Austin, Seminole State College, FL
- 2019** Stonewall 50, Seminole State College, FL
- 2018** Eclectic Local: Reading Orlando Art, Seminole State College, FL
- 2018** Protest and Pride, FL, Seminole State College
- 2017** White Only, Seminole State College, FL
- 2017** The Art of the Book: Book as Art, Seminole State College, FL
- 2011** The Art of Syria, Asian American Medical Association, Chicago, IL
- 2010** 4000 years of Images: Contemporary Middle Eastern Art, Casa Feliz, Winter Park,
- 2009** The Sheltering Eye, Baraka Collection, Winter Park, FL

FILM EVENTS ORGANIZED

- 2019** Stonewall Film Festival, Seminole State College, FL
- 2018** LGBTuesdays Film Series, Seminole State College, FL
- 2018** Global Film Festival, Seminole State College, FL
- 2017** Dystopia Film Festival, Seminole State College, FL
- 2017** Banned Books Film Festival, Seminole State College, FL

MUSICAL EVENTS: BARAKA WORLD MUSIC SERIES

- 2009** Duquelo, Turkey
- 2009** Free World Radio, USA
- 2009** May Nasr, Lebanon
- 2008** Claudia Calderon, Colombia
- 2007** Le Trio Joubran, Palestine
- 2007** Ayden and Friends, Turkey-USA

MEDIA EXPERIENCE

1985-1988	Director/ Producer, TV commercials, Damascus for Art Productions, Syria
1984-1988	Assistant Director. Damascus Nights, Syrian Arab TV, Syria
1983-1988	Editor, Host. Theatre Report, Radio Damascus, Syria
1983-1988	Editor, Host. Festival Review, Radio Damascus, Syria
1982-1988	Host, DJ. Rainbow (Top 20) Radio Show, Radio Damascus, Syria
1981-1988	News Editor/Anchor, Radio Damascus, Syria

THEATRE EXPERIENCE

1994	Immigration Tales, al-Funun al-Arabiya, Director, LA Festival Los Angeles, CA
1989	The Scream, Michelle Jordan, UCLA Little Theatre, Director, Los Angeles, CA
1988	Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme, Moliere, Actor, Academy of Dramatic Arts, Syria
1987	Death of a Salesman, Arthur Miller, Actor, Academy of Dramatic Arts, Syria
1987	Calchas, Anton Chekhov, Actor, Academy of Dramatic Arts, Damascus, Syria
1986	Harvest Nights, Mahmoud Diab, Actor, National Theatre, Damascus, Syria
1985	Shoeshine Boys, Actor, director: Jawad al-Assadi, Festival d'Avignon, France
1984	The Mother, Bertold Brecht, Assistant Director, University Theatre, Damascus, Syria
1983	Interview in Buenos Aires, Genrikh Borovik, Asst Director, University Theatre, Syria

COMMITTEE & BOARD EXPERIENCE

2022–Present	Executive Committee, Division of Continuing Education, Modern Language Association
2020–2022	Advisory Board, ADUC University , Dubai, UAE
2020–2022	Advisory Board, Southern Technical College , Orlando, FL
2016–2020	Executive Director, Barada Institute , Gaziantep, Turkey
2018–2019	Board of Trustees, Mount Dora Center for the Arts , Mount Dora, FL
2014–2019	GAAM Division Executive Committee (Chair, 2017), Modern Language Association
2007–2013	Creative Director, Baraka World Foundation , Orlando, FL

SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE

2018- 2019	Chair, TEDx Steering Committee, Seminole State College, FL
2018-2018	Member, First Year Experience Committee, Seminole State College, FL
2018-2018	Member, Smart Start Committee, Seminole State College, FL
2016- 2019	Chair, QEP Advisory Board, Seminole State College, FL
2016- 2019	Chair, QEP Culture of Reading Committee, Seminole State College, FL
2016- 2019	Member, Faculty Center Advisory Board, Seminole State College, FL
2016- 2019	Member, Speaker Series Committee, Seminole State College, FL

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2021	Equity Minded Practices Certification Valencia College, Orlando, FL
2020	Inclusion & Diversity Certification Valencia College, Orlando, FL
2018	RA Leadership Community of Practice West Ed, Oakland, CA
2017	Reading Apprenticeship West Ed, Oakland, CA
2016	Digital Course Designer Seminole State College, FL

LANGUAGES STUDIED

Arabic | French | Spanish | German | Turkish