

December 11, 2021 Branch Meeting and Holiday Luncheon Speaker Bios

Ahmad Ibrahim and Lindsey Curtis, from the school, will be our speakers. They will tell us about their work and the Afghan community here.

Ahmad was born in Afghanistan and began working for the DynCorp International Poppy Eradication Force in 2005. In 2010, he was hired by the Department of State at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul. In 2012 he was recommended for the SIV refugee program, and when his visa was finally issued in 2014, he came to the United States with his wife and seven children.

Here he was assigned to Opening Doors, a resettlement company that helped him find housing, receive DHA benefits and obtain a Social Security card. Two months later, he was employed by Apple as a technician. In 2017, he was hired at Opening Doors as a casework associate. From there, he moved up to become a caseworker, then resettlement supervisor. In 2019, he became the English Language Development (ELD) Coordinator.

There, the Highlands Community Charter School's CEO met him and asked him to become as ELD Navigator. Since March, he has assisted students with needs such as interpretation, placement, housing and employment. He thanks us in advance for contributing to the Comfort Toys project, which will assist many needy and grateful families. In addition to excellent English, Ahmad speaks Pashto, Farsi, Urdu and Dari. He will be happy to answer any of our questions in any of those languages!

Lindsay Curtis is a Southern California native who moved to Sacramento for graduate school in 2010. As part of her master's program, she co-taught EFL in the Peace Corps in Azerbaijan (2011-2013). There she learned the language and culture of the Muslim country and became familiar with Islam. When she returned to California, she completed her MA and began teaching English at CSUS's English Language Institute. Two years later, she moved to teaching evening classes at American River College while also working at Highlands Community Charter School.

Since 2020 she has been Highlands' Homeless Services Coordinator, where she helps more than 4,000 students obtain food, clothing, medical and vision care, transportation, housing, and other services they need to be successful students. She focuses on helping them improve their English skills, earn their high school diplomas, or obtain career technical education to be healthy, contributing members of the community. Lindsay will also be happy to answer questions.