



Friends of the Lakewood
Libraries (FoLL)

<http://www.lakewoodlibraryfriends.org>

CONGRATULATIONS ARE OFFERED TO DOCTOR AHMED RAFI (He goes by Rafi), our FoLL Board Member, on achieving his PhD in Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Dallas in May 2025.

Rafi and his family have been Lakewood residents since 1986. Their children, Muhammad and Sarah, attended Craig William Elementary and Mayfair High School in Lakewood.

Rafi is passionate about teaching & learning and loves volunteering, civic engagement, and community service. He also has volunteered at the local polling stations as clerk for Los Angeles County in almost every election since 1990. He has been an active neighborhood watch captain since 1986 and was awarded the Neighborhood Watch Captain of the Year in 2016. During the COVID-19 in 2020 he embarked on his PhD journey at the University of Texas at Dallas with enormous support and encouragement from his beloved wife Nancy (RIP) who was also an active FoLL Board member, along with Rafi, until she passed away in July 2022.

Rafi loves public service and he retired as an exemplary civilian from the United States Air Force. He believes teaching and learning a lifelong process a lifelong versus go together. He wants to join the faculty and research in public service and motivate the Next Generation to join public service, as it's one way to serve the country. He did his PhD to to help join the faculty at the local higher educational Institution. This also helps satisfy the passion for public affairs and Civic engagement. It means getting knowledge credit and honor to satisfy passion for teaching and learning as well as serving the community in the best way it can.

Rafi extends his immense gratitude for the big support he received from the network of the family, friends, community, University (UTD) faculty and staff, cohorts, the City of Lakewood (Leadership, staff, volunteers, and non-profit organizations), and former colleagues and superiors of the USAF. Rafi said "I could have never done it alone. I'm enormously thankful for all support I had during my PhD Journey".

Rafi plans to join the local Community College or university as a faculty member and share his knowledge he gained from the experience of University of Texas at

Dallas as well as civil service experience with the students at those institutions. He plans to continue volunteering as usual for friends of the Lakewood libraries (FoLL) and being a member of the measure L citizens oversight committee for the City of Lakewood.

The Board of Directors for FoLL take this opportunity to congratulate Rafi – WELL DONE!

