

Dr. Gloysis Mayers

Zayed University

Dubai, UAE

Presentation Format: Poster Session

Taking a Leadership Role in the Region: Early Childhood Education in the UAE at the Forefront.

The UAE is leading the way among Arab countries towards addressing early education and care. The conference on free compulsory education in the Arab States held in 1994 in Cairo, served as an impetus for governments to critically assess their education systems. In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), initiatives were successfully pursued towards making Early Childhood Education not only compulsory and free, but also meeting international standards. Article 17 of the UAE constitution and collaboration with organizations as UNICEF and UNESCO has been the basis of support for such achievements. Experts agree that meaningful change must be systematic, with change occurring at all levels of the educational system and extending beyond the walls of the early childhood classroom. Investing in comprehensive early childhood development programs is a key factor towards providing sustainability quality education. Past progress and planned reforms suggests that educators are progressively moving in the right direction.

As Early Childhood Educators who currently work or have had experience in this region, we are acutely aware of the progress and are eager to present the leadership initiatives which provide support for such advancements. We are also aware of challenges that still exist and welcome the opportunity to collaborate with an international audience on these issues. This presentation will

focus on the leadership role taken towards progressive changes at different phases of UAE'S  
education system in Early Childhood Education