**Panel 1 Speakers: Challenges of Resettlement**

**Salah Ansary**- Regional Director, of Lutheran Community Services Northwest

Salah was born in Afghanistan and first came to the US as an exchange student. He returned to Afghanistan but because of the political changes at the time, he left again in 1978 and settled in Portland, Oregon. In 1980, after the invasion of his homeland, his family fled Afghanistan and took refuge in the neighboring country of Pakistan. With the assistance of a local church, they were able to be resettled in Portland with him. Salah has worked for the Multnomah County Library and Lutheran Family Service of Oregon and Southwest Washington, now known as Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW). He is also the co-founder and president of the Afghan Cultural Service Center and has assisted Afghan refugees with adjusting to life in the US.

**Lee Po Cha**- Executive Director of Immigrant Refugee Community Organization

Lee Po Cha, MBA, became IRCO's Executive Director in April 2015. He has served IRCO since 1981 in a multitude of leadership roles, most recently as Associate Director and Director of IRCO Asian Family Center, which he helped found in 1994. A tireless advocate, Lee provides a voice for Oregon's increasingly diverse communities through his service on numerous commissions and boards, including the Governor's Commission on Senior Services, co-chair of the New Portlander Policy Council, the Home for Everyone Board, past president of the All Hands Raised Board, past president of the Hmong American Community of Oregon, and co-founder of the Coalition of Communities of Color.

A former Hmong refugee from Laos, Lee came to Oregon in 1978 and received his MBA from Marylhurst University. He embodies the vision of IRCO as an organization committed to helping each immigrant and refugee family achieve their full potential in their new home.

**Janet Musgrove Elfers-** President and ED of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Janet Musgrove Elfers is the President of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO). Her career at EMO spans 15 years and includes positions as interim executive director, director of public policy advocacy, director of member relations, and director of peace programs—reflecting her vision, passion and dedication to service to the Oregon community.

Elfers has served on the board of directors of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture Action Fund the Commission to End Racism at the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon. She is currently on the board of the Institute for Christian/Muslim Understanding and the Board of Advisors for WorldOregon. In 2009, she received the Friends of the Muslim Educational Trust Award and in 2017, the Annual Drum Major Legacy Award for Bridge Building . Elfers has served on numerous panels and has led workshops and retreats regarding interfaith understanding and dialogue and contemplative practices.

Elfers earned a bachelor’s in psychology at Lewis and Clark College. She completed a master’s in theology at Marylhurst University in 2006, focusing on the role of interreligious dialogue in peacemaking. During her practicum experience at EMO, she wrote a peace resource guide. In 2015, she completed a two-year course of study at Fr. Richard Rohr’s Living School for Action and Contemplation.

Elfers is a member of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Portland. She and her husband Michael have been married for 35 years and have a daughter and son, ages 31 and 28.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations, congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners. Committed to mutual respect and understanding, EMO brings together diverse communities of faith to learn, serve and advocate for justice, peace and the integrity of creation. EMO’s 45 staff members and hundreds of volunteers touch the lives of more than 18,000 people across the state each year.

**Fowzia Abdulle**- Case Manager Supervisor of Refugee Services, Catholic Charities Oregon

Originally from Somalia, Fowzia attended Portland Community College and Portland State University. She has Computer Information Systems certificate from PCC, and earned both a Bachelors and Masters in Social Work from PSU. Fowzia is currently the Case Manager Supervisor for Refugee Services at Catholic Charities. She has extensive experience working and supervising programs for domestic violence survivors, FGM and sex trafficking survivors, child abuse cases, and family preservation.

Fowzia has over 11 years’ experience working with high-risk individuals and families in multiple countries. In London she worked with Child Protective Services. Previous to that Fowzia was the Housing Specialist Program Coordinator at YWCA/Impact NW, serving families and children experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault. She began her social work career at Healing Root Center, a culturally-specific program for African and African-American women offering services for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. While working there as an advocate, she completed her education at PSU in 2012.