



# SATEZA

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*Sawt: An Oral History of Resettlement Campuses* was funded by an Emerson Collective Fellowship.



## ARRIVAL

The first few days in the US were a whirlwind of emotions, excitement, nervousness, and hope. I was traumatized and culture shocked when I arrived in the US, but the TU campus stood out as one of the most welcoming institutions.

Arriving on the TU campus, I was met with warmth and support from both the administration and fellow students. Orientation programs helped me acclimate quickly, introducing me to the campus culture and the resources available. The welcoming environment of TU played a crucial role in easing my transition and helping me feel more comfortable in my new surroundings.

## SUPPORT ON CAMPUS

*My interactions with the TU community were overwhelmingly positive, fostering meaningful relationships that I still cherish.*

The collaborative and diverse community at TU made it easy to feel at home and supported in my endeavors.

TU offered numerous resources such as academic advising, mental health services, and cultural orientation programs.



Hosted by:

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TULSA**



Self-interview in English

With the informed consent of participants, interview transcripts have been adapted here in narrative form for clarity and efficiency with a commitment to retaining the intended meaning.

[everycampusarefuge.org](http://everycampusarefuge.org)

My campus group, which was led by Dr. Danielle Macdonald played a crucial role in my adjustment, offering a sense of community and belonging through various cultural exchange programs and support initiatives.

I appreciated the sense of community and the comprehensive support system at TU the most. The willingness of the university to help Afghan students integrate and succeed was heartwarming.

*To me, community means a supportive network of individuals who share goals, values, and interests, offering mutual support and fostering a sense of belonging. It's about connection, understanding, and collaboration, where each member contributes to the well-being and growth of the group.*

This program has been a cornerstone of my cultural integration, allowing me to share my heritage while learning about others. It has created a bridge between Afghan and American cultures, fostering mutual respect and understanding. I have also celebrated the Afghan New Year (Nawroz) through ECAR back in 2022. ECAR has been very helpful to me, allowing me to share my norms with American Culture.

The sense of belonging and mutual support within these communities has been invaluable in navigating the challenges of adapting to a new culture and academic environment. The University of Tulsa (TU) campus is a vibrant and inclusive space. The people, including students, faculty, and staff, are exceptionally welcoming and supportive.

## NOT WITHOUT ITS CHALLENGES

The most challenging aspect was adjusting to a new environment and cultural differences, but the support from my peers and faculty helped ease this transition.



Image of Danielle Macdonald at the 2023 ECAR Gathering.

## CREATING A LASTING COMMUNITY

My Project Afghan Student Empowerment is funded by a grant from UNHCR. This project, which commenced on January 1st, 2024, has been instrumental in providing vital support to Afghan students at the University of Tulsa. With a focus on peer mentoring, academic assistance, and cultural integration, the project has garnered significant success and demonstrated its potential to positively impact the lives of Afghan students.

Many grapple with language barriers, academic adjustment, and cultural adaptation, making the initial years of college particularly daunting. The Afghan Student Empowerment project stands as a beacon of support, offering tailored assistance to help these students navigate these challenges successfully. By providing peer mentoring, academic support, and cultural integration initiatives, the project equips Afghan students with the tools and resources they need to thrive during the crucial early years of their college experience.

As the project leader of the Afghan Student Empowerment initiative, I am committed to advancing the project's mission of supporting Afghan students' educational journey and fostering their success. With continued support and investment, I am confident that the project will continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of Afghan students, both at the University of Tulsa and beyond.

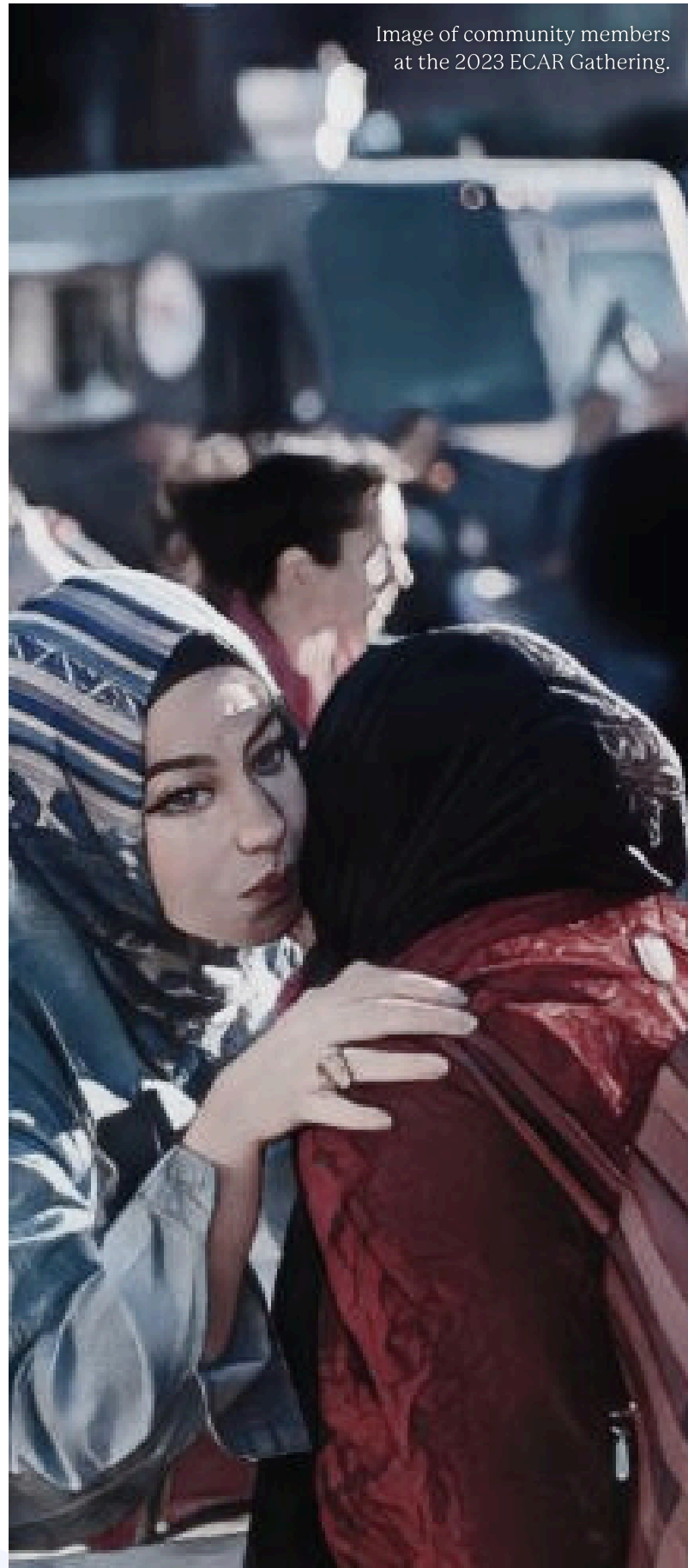


Image of community members at the 2023 ECAR Gathering.