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FSS Graduate Takes Skills Home to Qatar

Lincoln's cold weather is something Ieman El Takawi could never quite get used to. But El Takawi, a recent graduate of the Lincoln Housing Authority's Family Self-Sufficiency program, will miss most everything else about the city after she returns to the warmer climate of Qatar, her homeland.

"I'll miss the quiet and peacefulness of the city, and the greenery — I love the green leaves and bushes and grass," she said. "I've had a very good experience in Lincoln, and I plan on coming back for visits."



In Qatar, El Takawi will reunite with her husband Amir, and will teach architecture at Qatar University. While in Lincoln, she completed an internship for the City of Lincoln's planning department, and also served on the LHA Resident Advisory Committee while completing her master's degree in community planning at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. While in Lincoln, El Takawi had little spare time, since her husband remained in Qatar when she moved. She was responsible for her children, in addition to working, attending classes and studying. "Sometimes, it seemed like I didn't even have time to scratch my head," she said.

Her eldest daughter, Sahar, attends Creighton University Medical School, while another daughter, Dana, is attending UNL. Both will remain in Nebraska. Mohammed, her 9-year-old son, will move back to Qatar with her. "He doesn't quite know what to think about the move," El Takawi said. "He is excited, but he will also miss Lincoln."

Ieman El Takawi earned her master's degree in community planning from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

