

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

LEADERSHIP & LEGACY

MUSLIM WOMEN REMEMBERED

Fatima Al-Fihri

d. 880 C.E.

Visionary Founder

Ascetic Developer

Fatima received a sizeable inheritance and decided to build a mosque. She then noticed the lack of a proper place for thinkers, scientists, and religious leaders to come together and discuss new ideas, study and learn. She embarked on an ambitious plan to build an institute of knowledge adjacent to the mosque she had financed. This institute became the University of Qarawiyyin, which opened its doors in 857 CE. It helped transform Fes into a major intellectual, cultural and spiritual center recognized and patronized by Muslims and peoples of other faiths from around the world. Today it is the oldest operating university in the world.

