



With G-d's Name, The Merciful Benefactor, The Merciful Redeemer

## COMMUNITY WIDE SHURA CONFERENCE<sup>SM</sup>

2620 Bragg Boulevard, Suite D, Fayetteville, North Carolina 28303

Telephone (910) 317-0297 • E-mail: cwsconline@gmail.com

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"Unleashing and harnessing the capacity inherent in the group intellect..."

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*"[We] must work to build a better place for [ourselves], one that will benefit all people, regardless of race or religion. Form alliances, firstly among yourselves..."—Imam W. Deen Mohammed (ra)*

Dear Present / Prospective Supporter: As-Salaamu-Alaikum (Peace be with you).

As we close 2014 and look toward the future, I am thankful for the privilege to serve as CWSC's executive director and even more privileged to work with a stellar group of dedicated volunteers from around the country who sacrifice their time, energies, intellect and more to help fulfill a promise... a promise to establish a working intelligentsia to help ourselves and to help remake the world.

Our Creator and Merciful Benefactor reminds us, it is He on whom we must depend and to not become disheartened by temporary circumstances. Allah (SWT) revealed to His Noble Messenger Muhammed (S):

*"If Allah helps you, none can overcome you; and if He forsakes you, who is there after Him that can help you? And in Allah (Alone) let believers put their trust." (Al-Qur'an, Surah Al-Imran:160)*

We began the year with zero dollars, not even a website, and three volunteers. But we knew that what was stirring in our souls was shared by others and that we need only connect. Something powerful was moving us—faith. We pledged no matter the difficulty and despite the lack of material resources, that we would work diligently and steadfastly to help establish a national think tank and human resource network upon the principle of shuraa baynahum (mutual consultation) to help our community, our nation and the world.

We've taken on a monumental and noble task; it has not been easy, but then again anything worth working for never is, and while much work remains to bring the full vision into reality, we have completed our first year and can look back with humility and gratitude, while looking forward with a powerful shared vision.

The 2014 Annual Progress Report lists CWSC's accomplishments, but nothing happens without people. In less than six months following the St. Louis National Town Hall for Mutual Consultation, Allah (SWT) has strengthened an initial effort with a complement now of nearly 50 believers strong and growing! And the best is yet to come.

We've all been especially prepared to bring something uniquely beneficial to the table of shuraa baynahum. Thank you for helping to make a difference. We invite others to join us in making history...join us in helping remake the world.

As-Salaamu-Alaikum.

Thomas Abdul-Salaam

Executive Director, Community Wide Shuraa Conference