



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

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

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“Unleashing and harnessing the full capacity inherent in the group intellect...”

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### PRESS RELEASE: 2015 WORDS MAKE PEOPLE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*The ink of the scholar is more valuable than the blood of the martyr.—Prophet Muhammed (S)*

**NATIONAL**— Community Wide Shuraa Conference, Inc. (CWSC) congratulates Najah Mateen, the 2015 recipient of the Words Make People (WMP) Leadership and Community Service Scholarship Award.



**Najah Mateen**

The WMP Award is a national scholarship established in honor of American Muslim leader, humanitarian, and religious scholar, the late Honorable Imam Dr. W. Deen Mohammed. Imam Mohammed inherited the struggle for dignity and economic justice through the African American saga and Islamic influence woven into the history of American Blacks both before and after slavery. He led millions of Americans to true Islam, dispelling false notions of race and religion to make his Community a new world leader for the proper understanding and practice of Al-Islam. Part of the Imam's legacy was his ability to inspire through the power of the written and spoken word; he stressed the important role that language and words whether in Scripture, higher education, or common communication, play in shaping critical thought and subsequent social, cultural, political, intellectual and moral expression.

The Scholarship, open to college bound graduating high school seniors, graduate and undergraduate college students in any major of all faiths, is merit-based with the goals of helping a student afford college, encouraging excellence in education and community service and advancing an American Legacy of Leadership. Applicants must have demonstrated interest in the power of written communication and appreciation for the historical or contemporary effect of written communication on people at a local, national or global level.

This year's recipient typifies the faith-based scholarship, leadership, and character excellence the WMP Scholarship seeks to recognize, support, and inspire in our future leaders. Najah Mateen is a college-bound 2015 honor graduate of the American School, Lansing, Illinois. Graduating with a 3.6 GPA, Najah is the eldest of ten children and has been home-schooled most of her life; she is also a former student of Indianapolis' Algebraic Institute for Human Excellence, where according to her 9<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher, Khadijah Siddeeq-Mohammed, she distinguished herself as a student leader who values the power of the written and spoken word. Najah started reading at an unusually early age and is now an avid reader and writer and dreams of someday becoming a published author of young adult Muslim fiction. From poetry, historical fiction, and drama to non-fiction, Najah has already penned an impressive volume of compositions and uses her easy communication style and interpersonal skills to engage other youth as a volunteer at the Stroudsburg Islamic Center weekend school.

Described by her teachers and mentors as a born leader, Najah wherever she resides, has always given back to her community, and most recently volunteered as a youth mentor.

Najah was a key organizer for her Islamic Center's youth committee, helping create a calendar of activities to promote youth engagement with cultural and entertainment themes promoting Islamic values.

Najah enjoys an occasional round of tennis, basketball and a good scrabble game to continue building her vocabulary. But her word power comes from an oratory and literary drive fed by her desire to become a lawyer in international law. Her first post high-school academic stop is for an undergraduate degree in international studies which she'll begin this fall at Atlanta, Georgia's famed Spelman College...a degree she'll use to help her understand America and the world better. Najah will attend on a full scholarship, with plans to follow on with her studies at law school. She's already savored a "legal victory" as a top participant in a local legal career network where she earned the title "Most Likely to Be a Defense Attorney." The legal program gave Najah an opportunity to showcase her skills in a mock trial; gave her access to some of the best judges and lawyers in her locale; and also provided her a follow on opportunity to intern with Marion County Superior Court Judge, Honorable David Shaheed.

And like other high achieving recipients of the WMP Scholarship Award, Najah readily acknowledges she didn't accumulate all the accolades to her credit on her own; her accomplishments are also a reflection of her supportive parents Rasheed and Shakura Mateen, extended family, and a nurturing community and some excellent teachers and institutions.

Following the Eid-ul-Fitr announcement of her selection for the award, Najah receives \$1,000 in scholarship funds, a certificate of distinguished achievement, and congratulatory gifts including the *Noble Qur'an*, *Genesis of New American Leadership*, and *Remaking Our World Calendar: Tribute to the Leadership of Imam W. Deen Mohammed*.

May G-d continue blessing Sister Najah with success in her academic and professional pursuits and in her family, civic, and community life. We look forward to her future academic and leadership contributions. See Najah's Scholarship essay, [Words Make People, People Make Change](#) at [cwsc.us](#) and hear Najah's recent interview on the *CWSC Friday On-Air Roundtable* at [American Muslim 360](#).

The WMP Scholarship helps us demonstrate to our students that we care about their future and need their intellect and voice in our group intellect and at the tables of shuraa baynahum. Student leaders like Sister Najah are a testament that Imam Mohammed's mission and work emphasizing religious scholarship, education, economic development, and the promotion of universal human excellence live on and continue to transpose a legacy of leadership onto the world stage. Scholarships are just one of many CWSC initiatives among a host of other community programs sponsored by organizations throughout the U.S. committed to preserving and sharing the legacy of Imam Mohammed's life and work. CWSC Scholarships invest in tomorrow's leaders today for a brighter future.

We acknowledge with grateful appreciation Dr. Zakiyyah Muhammad, director of the CWSC National Scholarship Committee and her team including Dr. Aisha Kareem and Imam Rashad Shahid; a special thank you to CWSC treasurer, Imam Adam Beyah and Martha Nailah Williams, director scholarship programs, internships & leadership development council; Mark Shahid, host of the CWSC On-Air Roundtable at American Muslim 360 Radio; Muslim Journal and editor Ayesha Mustafaa; FAMACO Publishers, the National Parade of Logos, facebook supporters, twitter and causes.com followers who have adopted the WMP Scholarship as a community concern.

Because of our volunteers, the 2015 WMP Scholarship operated at an impressive 100% charitable donation efficiency based on American Institute of Philanthropy (AIP)\* standards. You can establish a national scholarship in honor of an American Muslim pioneer, support a current CWSC Scholarship, apply next year, and learn more about all CWSC Scholarship opportunities at [www.cwsc.us](#). Together we can remake the world.

CWSC is a non-partisan, IRS Code Section 501(c)(3) tax exempt, faith-based national conference, bringing together diverse human resources with the desire, knowledge and experience to help achieve the highest level of excellence in community life. Our Vision...to help remake our world into a better place by unleashing and harnessing the full capacity inherent in the group intellect. CWSC is qualified to receive bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under sections 2055, 2106, or 2252 of the Code. Contributions are fully tax deductible as allowed by law. Federal Tax ID: 46-3505809. Please consider including CWSC in your estate planning. To make a contribution by U.S. Mail: Make check payable to CWSC and mail to CWSC, 2620 Bragg Boulevard, Suite D, Fayetteville, NC 28303. Gift with confidence...CWSC has earned the Exchange Gold participation rating for our commitment to data transparency from GuideStar.org, the nation's #1 data hub for nonprofit research.

\* 100 cents of every dollar contributed went directly to the Scholarship recipient. CWSC and the WMP Scholarship are not affiliated with AIP.