



With G-d's Name, Merciful Benefactor, Merciful Redeemer
FAMACO Publishers, LLCSM
6001-21 Argyle Forest Blvd. 323 • Jacksonville, FL 32244
www.famacopublishers.com

PRESS RELEASE: NATIONAL LAUNCH OF WORDS MAKE PEOPLE SCHOLARSHIP

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Contact: Imam Rashad Shahid
Qalambooks@aol.com

The ink of the scholar is more valuable than the blood of the martyr.—The Prophet Muhammed (Peace be upon him)

JACKSONVILLE, FL, — FAMACO Publishers, LLC and Qalam Books Division are honored to announce the national launch of the Words Make People Literary Excellence and Scholarship Award. Founded regionally in 2006, the scholarship is named 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. Many of his followers will recall his proclamations, "*Man means mind,*" "*Words make people,*" and "*Remake the World.*" The Imam was not simply looking to inspire adherents, he was seeking to inspire his Community to become students of religion, to be critical free thinkers firmly established upon the foundation of the Holy Qur'an, the Seerah (history, pronouncements and approved actions) of Prophet Muhammed (Peace be upon him), and the best of all revealed knowledge G-d has blessed mankind to benefit from.

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. FAMACO Publisher's Vice President, Hajji Mukhtar Muhammad states, "*This national launch represents a natural progression. We can think of no better way to advance the Imam's work and contribute to the Community in association with his leadership than through the promotion of education and especially through a scholarship based on an ability to write well. And we are going to ask our business partners to join us in underwriting the scholarship. The more scholarships we can award, the more we can assist both our prospective youth leaders and the secondary institutions dedicated to preparing them for leadership.*" Mukhtar grew up under Imam Mohammed's leadership, attended the Community's schools (at the time Muhammad University), served as both a commissioned and enlisted officer in the Navy and eventually served by appointment of the Imam at the national levels of the Community's leadership. "*We have a lot of work remaining. There are still many things unfulfilled that the Imam wanted to see and the Community aspires to achieve; we cannot do it with yesterday's thinking. We need students who can think critically and then put pen to paper to inspire the highest level of introspection and performance into the 21st century and beyond . . . that's what the Words Make People scholarship is all about . . . investing in tomorrow's leaders today for a better community and society,*" states Mukhtar.

The "Words Make People" Award is a scholarship and certificate of distinguished achievement given annually to a student who has demonstrated throughout his or her coursework, extracurricular activities, or vocation, the highest standard of excellence in written communication including creative writing, critical thought, research and analysis, exposition, or journalism. Past awardees have included honor graduates of the W. Deen Mohammed High School in Atlanta, Georgia. Current applicants must be enrolled in or accepted by a full-time undergraduate (12 or more credit hours), graduate (9 or more credit hours), or professional program at an accredited university in the United States, and majoring in the field of English or other second language, Literature, or Journalism. Final selection criteria include a weighted preference for current enrollment at or graduation from a secondary school in association with the leadership of Imam W. Deen Mohammed.

For more information or to download an application, please visit www.famacopublishers.com and click on the Scholarship link. **Deadline for application is June 19, 2010.**

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