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PRESS RELEASE: 2011 WORDS MAKE PEOPLE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

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Contact: Imam Rashad Shahid
Scholarships@famacopublishers.com

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

NATIONAL — FAMACO Publishers and the Words Make People National Scholarship Committee announced over the Independence Day weekend that Zahrah T. Bashir Abdul-Malik is the 2011 recipient of the Words Make People Literary Excellence and Scholarship Award. The public announcement came at the celebrated Community Life Forward (CLF) event held in Atlanta, Georgia.

Founded regionally in 2006, the now national scholarship is 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



Zahrah Tahsiyn Bashir Abdul-Malik
2011 WMP Scholarship Recipient

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 is open to college bound graduating high school seniors, graduate and undergraduate college students of all faiths and is merit-based with the goal of helping a deserving student, encouraging excellence in education and advancing an American Legacy of Leadership. Applicants must have demonstrated interest in the power of written communication and appreciation for the historical or current 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. Zahra Bashir is a rising sophomore at Annandale-on-Hudson, New York's Bard College. She completed her freshman year with a G.P.A. of 3.39 on a 4.0 scale with dual majors in Economics and Middle Eastern Studies. Her courses include Arabic language in preparation for her pursuit of a Master's in Linguistics. She is President of Bard College Muslim Student Association and the 2010 Posse Foundation Full-Tuition Leadership Scholarship recipient from Imam W. Deen Mohammed High School in Atlanta where she graduated with honors as class valedictorian. She, along with her husband, made history as the first students to marry while attending W. Deen Mohammed High. Her presence at CLF Atlanta in July was fortuitous as event

Telephone 904.434.5901 • Facsimile 904.777.5901 • E-mail: Scholarships@famacopublishers.com

planners graciously allotted time at a most apropos venue to publicly recognize her selection. This year's award includes \$1,500 in scholarship funds, a certificate of achievement, and congratulatory gifts including the Noble Qur'an, Genesis of New American Leadership, and Remake the World Calendar (courtesy of FAMACO Publishers); Applying the Teachings of Imam W. Deen Mohammed Books I and II (courtesy of Mubaashir Uqdah Enterprises); Justice For Her and CHOICEZ: A Memoir (courtesy of Aginah Carter-Shabazz); Muslim Journal subscription (courtesy of Muslim Journal Enterprises); The Honorable Elijah Muhammad: The Man Behind The Men (courtesy of Words Make People Publishing); The Power 2BU: The ABCs of Life Enrichment (courtesy of Thomas Abdul Salaam); What Every American Should Know About Islam & The Muslims (Courtesy of New Mind Productions); The Language of Revelation: Classical Arabic Language Instruction With Exercises & Qur'an Commentary (courtesy of Imam Siddeeq Jihad); and Veiled Voices: Muhajabat in Secular Schools, courtesy of Dr. Jawairriya Abdallah-Shahid.

A former Georgia Certificate of Merit winner and National Honor Society, Beta Club, and National Honor Roll awardee, Zahra Bashir is active in her Community, and works closely with Bard College Chaplaincy, that moreover, provided a sterling letter of recommendation urging her selection as this year's WMP awardee. Pursuing a double major, she also works on campus for the Student Resource Group and Alumnae Office and is active in the Bard College community groups Environmental Collective and Anti-Racist Discourse. Careful not to rest on her laurels as a past civic volunteer for Atlanta's Youth V.I.B.E. Incorporated, Baitul Salaam Network, and Giving Back to Humanity, she continues to build on her community service record as a founding member of N.A.Y.M.A. (New African Young Marriage Alliance); the group's mission: to promote and preserve the sacred bond of marriage for the establishment of community life by utilizing The Qur'an, the life example of Prophet Muhammad and the language and leadership of Imam Warith Deen Mohammed (with a focus on young marriage). In fulfillment of the Scholarship's literary requirement, Mrs. Bashir Abdul-Malik's essay on the meaning of the phrase *Words Make People* appears online on our Scholarship page at www.famacopublishers.com.

Mukhtar Muhammad, chair of the National Scholarship Committee and vice president for FAMACO Publishers states, "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...Sister Bashir is evidence of that. Many can recall the Imam's proclamations, "Man means mind," "Words make people," and "Remake the World." Our leader 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 Life of Muhammed The Prophet (Peace be upon him), and the best of all knowledge G-d has blessed mankind to benefit from. The work we are accomplishing through our partnerships is designed to preserve, share and advance Imam Mohammed's legacy as a balanced educator respecting Revealed Scripture as the foundation for man's intellectual and material development. The Imam was an advocate for education...our advocacy represents a natural progression toward institutionalizing his work. There are still many things unfulfilled that the Imam wanted to see and our Community aspires to achieve. 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 brighter future. The more scholarships we can award, the more we can assist our prospective leaders in helping remake the

world.” May G-d continue blessing Mrs. Bashir Abdul-Malik with success in her academic and professional pursuits and in her family, civic, and community life. We look forward to her future scholarship and leadership contributions.

We acknowledge with grateful appreciation: members of the National Scholarship Committee including Dr. Aisha Kareem, Mukhtar Muhammad, Dr. Zakiyyah Muhammad, Dr. Jawairriya Abdallah-Shahid, and Imam Rashad Shahid; a special thank you to our fiduciary partner, Masjid An Nur Minneapolis and Imam Makram El-Amin and the superb staff who administered the collection, accounting and disbursement of funds that provided the Scholarship program an impressive 96.9%+ charitable donation efficiency based on American Institute of Philanthropy standards; the following contributors, supporters, and National Parade of Logos: Imam Mubaashir Uqdah, Takbir Sharif, El-Amin Business Services, Aameedah Abdullah, Lawrence Toure' Muhammad, Hajja Edna Clifton, Malika Ikhlas, Delicia Stewart, Arlene El-Amin, Aginah Carter-Shabazz, Muslim Journal, Imam Michael “Mikal” Saahir, Thomas Abdul Salaam, Zakiyyah Nu'Man, Imam Siddeeq Jihad, Dr. Jawairriya Abdallah-Shahid, Imam Wahy-ud Deen Shareef, Imam Rashad Sharif, Ayesha Mustafaa, D. Shahid M. Abdul-Karim, A New Day for Islam in America, UmmahStream World TV, Muslim Journal, YOU R A Creator, Hour of Health Power, The Sacred & Secret Language of Religion & Culture, Masjid Al-Mu'minin (Memphis, TN), CMECCA, Masjid Waarith ud Deen at Waris C.R.D.C., American Muslim 360, Modern Day Achievers, Islamic Theater, Station IWDM, RRM Enterprises, Baitul Salaam Network, Inc., Sabree Environmental & Construction, Inc., Cedar Grove Corporation, K.R. Abdullah & Associates, Community Life Forward, (CLF2011), Imam Saafir Rabb II, Dr. Precious R. Muhammad, Mahasin Abuwi Aleem, Muslim American Media Alliance (M.A.M.A.), and Shabazz Cola. Thank you to the many facebook supporters acknowledged on our website who adopted the WMP Scholarship as a cause.

Want to be a supporter or applicant for next year's scholarship, or learn more about the Scholarship Committee and its work? Click on the scholarship link at www.famacopublishers.com, email Scholarships@famacopublishers.com, or visit www.Scholarships.famacopublishers.com. The call for 2012 Applicants will be made early next year with an application deadline of June 30. We wish a Blessed Ramadan 2011 to you all.

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