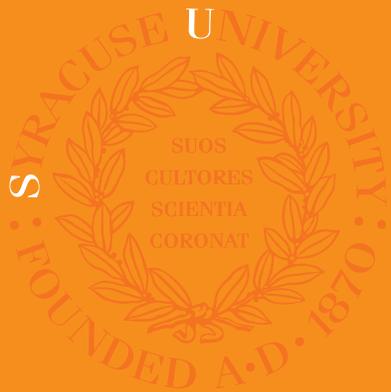


A MUSLIM CULTURAL CENTER AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

FILLING A CRITICAL NEED

Once at the forefront of providing services, facilities, and spiritual leadership to Muslims in its campus community, Syracuse University has in recent years fallen behind its peers. It now has a vital need to create a new Muslim Cultural Center and hire a full-time director in order to re-establish itself as a leader among U.S. universities committed to meeting the needs of Muslims.

A Muslim Cultural Center would not only support Muslim students at SU, it would also provide important outreach and education for the larger, non-Muslim community, enlightening people about the facts of Islam to counteract popular misconceptions, ignorance, and harmful stereotypes. The Center would also bolster SU's appeal to students throughout the Middle East—a vitally important “geography of opportunity” for student recruitment.



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

820 Comstock Avenue
Syracuse, New York 13244-5040



Our Vision

Syracuse University reaffirms its commitment to supporting the spiritual, social, and programmatic needs of all Muslims in the SU community. The creation of a Muslim Cultural Center would:

- >> Position SU as a leader by providing vital services, resources, personnel, and community networks to further the faith development of our Muslim students, faculty, and staff.
- >> Establish a Muslim advisory council of alumni and volunteers to support the Center and to strengthen our existing connections within the local Muslim community.
- >> Expand our appeal and enrollment throughout the Middle East by establishing a permanent campus presence for Islam that is on par with other major faith traditions.
- >> Provide important education and outreach to non-Muslims both within and beyond our campus borders.



Moeed Raza Chohan '12, Ismail Pathan '13, Azhar Ali '13, and Haseeba Syed '12 accepted the top award for philanthropy for the Muslim Student Association at the 44 Stars Gala Dinner, an event that recognizes and honors the hard work and dedication of Syracuse University's undergraduate students and student organizations.

Spiritual Support for Students

Among the programming initiatives and services to be established under the Muslim Cultural Center:

- >> Jumu'ah prayer and other services in collaboration with the Islamic Society of Central New York
- >> A lecture series featuring prominent Islamic speakers on a range of topics relating to Islam
- >> Individual and/or marital counseling for Muslim undergraduate and graduate students
- >> Discussion groups, book clubs, and movie nights to create a supportive social atmosphere for students and expand membership in the Muslim Student Association
- >> Activities specific to Ramadan, including
 - Taraweeh prayers on campus and Eid celebration
 - Iftar dinners to bring students, faculty, and staff together as they break their Ramadan fast
- >> Outreach activities and workshops to educate and enlighten non-Muslims about Islam—and to counter misconceptions—by presenting the facts based on the teachings of the Holy Koran and the prophet Muhammad

Our long-term goal is to construct a new building to house the Muslim Cultural Center on the SU campus. We have two models for such a multidimensional spiritual center on our campus now—the Hillel Jewish Student Union and the Alibrandi Catholic Center. Securing funding for a full-time director dedicated exclusively to the needs of SU's Islamic community is an essential first step toward realizing this long-term vision.

How You Can Help

A full-time director of the Muslim Cultural Center at SU would require an annual budget of \$150,000, a figure based on equivalent positions for other faith traditions at SU. The budget would encompass:

- >> Director, \$105,000 (full-time salary plus University benefits)
- >> Lectures, seminars, and workshops, \$25,000
- >> Eid celebrations, weekly iftar dinners, and social activities, \$10,000
- >> Miscellaneous expenses, \$10,000

Gifts to support the Center may be made in a number of ways, including contributing toward an endowment, making a commitment of \$150,000 per year for several years, or making a one-time donation of any size.

We urge your support for this vision to benefit the vibrant Muslim community on the SU campus and establish a permanent place for it within the University's spiritual community.

For more information on how you can give, contact:

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"A Muslim Cultural Center at SU would mean a lot to me. It is very important to have Muslim social functions such as Eid dinners and iftar in Ramadan—it would really get the students attached to Islam more and see that Islam is an amazing religion."

Norah Abdullah Aldakhil '15
Computer Art and Animation
Dubai



"A Muslim leader at SU will help students gain a deeper understanding of themselves as they grapple with multiple identities and realities while going through their college experiences."

Azhar Ali '13
Selected Studies in Education
Middletown, New York



Now is the Time!

A Muslim Cultural Center at Syracuse University has never been more vital. Consider:

- >> Globally, the Muslim population is expected to increase by approximately 35 percent—twice the rate of the non-Muslim population—over the next 20 years, according to projections by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.
- >> In 2012, SU received a record 193 applications for admission from students in the Middle East and North Africa, as a result of intensified outreach in the region.
- >> SU has 210 students who self-identify as Muslim and expects to enroll a total of 500 Muslim students over the next several years.
- >> In recent years, SU Chancellor Nancy Cantor has made the Gulf region a priority for student recruitment, opening a Dubai office to help raise our regional visibility and boost enrollment in this critical “geography of opportunity.”
- >> Beyond campus, an estimated 10,000 Muslims make Syracuse and the surrounding region their home. The Muslim chaplaincy and its related initiatives would deeply enrich and provide opportunities for engagement with this extended community as well.

While the number of Muslims is increasing worldwide, ignorance about the tenets of Islam continue to plague our post-9/11 world. As a university, we are uniquely positioned to correct these fallacies and replace barriers of fear with bonds of mutual friendship and respect.

A Muslim Cultural Center would be central to that effort. SU continues to maintain strong connections with several of our extraordinarily successful Middle Eastern alumni, whose ongoing support for the University has generated invaluable scholarship and engagement opportunities for SU students and faculty. We value this legacy and hope to build on it as our presence in, and outreach to, the Middle East continues to flourish and grow.