**Islamophobia: Beyond Myths to Social Change**

The post-9/11 era in the U.S. has exposed deep levels of prejudice and bigotry towards Muslim people. Recent inflammatory rhetoric, controversy over the Park 51 Community Center in Manhattan, NYPD surveillance of Muslim students and Congressional hearings singling out Muslim communities reveal broad-base prejudice, discrimination and xenophobia towards Muslims. Racial profiling, hate crimes and bullying continue to be widespread.

Islamophobia is defined as a fear or anxiety of both Muslim and Islamic people. To combat this phobia along with unjust actions that accompany it, education and action are needed. This session addresses the following questions:

·         What are the tenets of the faith and who are its followers?

·         What are the experiences of Muslims in the United States both pre- and post-9/11

·         What implications does this lack of knowledge of Islam and Muslims have on our campuses and workplace environments?

·         How do challenge dominant narratives about Muslims framed by mainstream media?

**Date: October 25, 2012 11:00-12:15**

**Location: Flint ridge room, USU**

**Presenter: Amer Ahmed**

**Amer Ahmed** serves as Associate Director of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs at the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor and is a member of SpeakOut:  Institute for Democratic Leadership and Culture.  As a college administrator, Hip Hop activist, spoken word poet, intercultural consultant, he channels his diverse experiences to address issues of social justice that continue to face traditionally marginalized communities.