Muslim and Jewish students join forces

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- Elysia Rodriguez

AMHERST, Mass. (WWLP) - Local Muslim students are joining forces with Jewish students to counter misconceptions about Islam.

There has been hostility surrounding a series of recent stories about Muslims in America.

"There's the ground zero mosque controversy and all the news stations coming out against that and them trying to burn the Quran. CNN doing this thing about should Americans fear Muslims or fear Islam." Chris Blauvelt, Executive Producer

But Muslim students at UMass Amherst have formed what may seem like an unlikely partnership with the Jewish Student Union hoping to shatter stereotypes.

"Some of those trends or isolated incidents that people have seen are the products of ignorance, people don't realize that in the end, we all go through the same experiences in life." Michael Fox, President, Jewish Student Union

The two groups held a showing Wednesday night of a movie about a young Muslim's struggle to find balance with his faith. The man behind the movie explain hostility towards Muslims made his college experience a challenge.

"September 11th was actually my second week of college so in addition to adjusting to the normal things that a student coming from a lower income area has to adjust to. I also had to deal with that as well and I really just felt misunderstood." Sultan Sharrif, Director, Balal's Stand

The hope is that by opening up dialogue. This small show of unity will inspire others.

"Despite the fact that there are a lot of hostile feelings towards each other. We feel like if we can show people throughout the campus that you know students can work together. It's a great way of setting up a precedence that college kids can do it, high school students can do it, why can't we do it." Salman Khanani, Muslim Students Association

The movie Bilal's Stand has been well received since it showed at the Sundance Film Festival.