



PRESS RELEASE

## Hamad bin Khalifa University and Partners Engage with Students and Families at HBKU Family Day

Doha, 5 February 2014 – Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community development (QF), organized its 6<sup>th</sup> annual Family Day event for students of Education City and their families on January 30<sup>th</sup>. The yearly celebration, coordinated by the HBKU Student Affairs team, in collaboration with HBKU's partner universities, is designed to engage and encourage students to explore the variety of opportunities available in Education City to achieve the best university experience.

HBKU Family Day, which took place at the HBKU Student Center, included participation from HBKU's partner universities: Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar (VCUQatar), Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q), Texas A&M University at Qatar (TAMUQ), Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMUQ), Georgetown University School of Foreign Service (SFS-Q), and Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q). Qatar Foundation's Academic Bridge Program was also represented. The Universities allowed parents and students to interact and speak about learning both inside and outside the classroom.

"Family Day is not only a great way for families to learn about their student's day to day lives here in Education City," said Melissa Winter Jan, Assistant Director of Campus Life at HBKU, "but it is also an opportunity for students to further introduce to their families their community within Education City. With events that illustrate the academic exploration and knowledge growth that our universities are known for, and recreational activities that allow students and their families to create wonderful memories here together, this is one of our most widely enjoyed events."

Hamad bin Khalifa University strives to deepen the student learning experience and develop a dynamic campus community across traditional institutional boundaries, with its Student Center acting as an academic, social and recreational hub for all university students. During this year's family day event, HBKU and its partners organized a welcome booth in the Student Center to welcome families to the celebration, as well as a Student Affairs booth to further explain all of the services available to students in Education City. Families were also invited to participate in a chili cook-off, hosted by TAMUQ, and to challenge each other on obstacle course and carnival games organized by the HBKU Sports and Games Club. There were also raffle prizes and the opportunity to partake in the HBKU Student Center's bowling alley and arcade for younger visitors.

Commenting on the event, Mohammed D. Fakhro, Campus Life Officer at HBKU said: "HBKU Family Day is one of multiple efforts by HBKU and its partner universities to engage with the families of the Education City student body. What makes this day unique is that it showcases the learning that takes place when students are engaged as active participants in their college experience. There are



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multitudes of opportunities available to students here regardless of which university they attend. We hope that this day will shed some light to family members on how far their sons and daughters have come, as well as continuing to encourage them to branch out even more.”

Through Family Day, HBKU and its partners are encouraging students to reach beyond their university studies and get involved in sports and recreation, student organizations, service-learning, and leadership development.

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#### **About HBKU:**

Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, is an emerging research university building upon unique collaborations with local and international partners. Located in Education City, HBKU seeks to provide unparalleled opportunities for scholarship, teaching, discovery, and learning for all of its faculty and students through an array of interdisciplinary graduate programs.

HBKU’s partners are Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Texas A&M University at Qatar, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, Northwestern University in Qatar, HEC Paris in Qatar, and University College London Qatar.