

PRESS RELEASE

### **Hamad bin Khalifa University Honors Alfardan Group For its Contribution to the HBKU Scholarship Program**

**Doha**, 26 April 2014 – Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF), held a dinner on April 14<sup>th</sup> to honor the Alfardan Group for its ongoing contribution and support to the HBKU Scholarship program. The dinner, held at the HBKU Student Center, was in honor of Mr. Omar Hussain Alfardan, President and Chief Executive Officer of Alfardan Group. In attendance were Dr. David Prior, Executive Vice President and Provost, Dr. Khalid Al-Khanji, Vice President of Student Affairs, and Soud Al-Tamimi, Vice President of Operations at HBKU and faculty and staff from HBKU and its partner universities.

Three students from HBKU’s partner universities were awarded scholarships from Alfardan Group’s contribution, namely from Texas A&M University at Qatar (TAMUQ) and Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMUQ).

Speaking on behalf of Alfardan Group, Omar Hussain Alfardan, President and CEO, said: “Alfardan Group has always placed a significant importance to education and development of our youth population. It has been our mission to select deserving students and help them in their quest to pursue higher education; allowing them promising opportunities to be able to build successful careers. It is our honor to celebrate the collaboration of selected educational scholarships between Alfardan Group and HBKU within the Alfardan Excellence Sponsorship Award.”

Mr. Alfardan continued: “Alfardan Group shares a common goal with HBKU —which is to play a major part in the efforts directed towards realizing the dream of His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani and in line with Qatar’s National Vision 2030 to develop and promote education among all. This has inspired us to partner with HBKU so as to provide ample opportunities for these students to be able to take on the challenges and demands they may face in the future. We believe that education is the noblest way to empower youth to contribute towards the society and to preserve the traditions, values and culture of our country. ”

The HBKU Scholarship program was established and designed to nurture potential, recognize excellence and support students enrolled at HBKU or one of its partner universities.

Commenting on the value of the HBKU Scholarship program and the significance of Alfardan Group's contribution, Dr. Khalid Al-Khanji, Vice President of Student Affairs at HBKU said: "The HBKU Scholarship program, thanks to the generous contribution of organizations such as Alfardan Group, provides a unique opportunity for students to study at some of the leading universities here in Education City. By recognizing and rewarding such achievements we are also motivating these students to continue performing at such a high standard, encouraging their peers to do the same in return."

The final speech of the evening was by Zainab Baqri, a Computer Science student at CMUQ, who spoke on behalf of all of the scholarship recipients and said: "On this auspicious occasion I would like to thank both the Alfardan Group and HBKU for sponsoring us. Through this scholarship, we can continue developing our skills and achieving our full potential, and also secure our present and future."

As an emerging research university, HBKU places inestimable value on collaboration among institutions, communities, and industries, and is proud to have a wide-range of partnerships both in Qatar and worldwide. In the past, HBKU has partnered with key local and regional organizations including the Ali Bin Ali Group and ITOCHU for the HBKU Scholarship program.

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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 students through an array of interdisciplinary 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.