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Carnegie Mellon Qatar inaugurates selective computer science institute

DOHA, QATAR – Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar recently hosted independent school students with an aptitude for computer science at its inaugural ‘Winter Institute: Discovering Computer Science’ program.

The 23 students were hand-picked by Carnegie Mellon Qatar after demonstrating their interest and potential to excel in the field at some of the university’s other outreach programs, including Summer College Preview Program and CS4Qatar for Students.

Addressing the students at the Winter Institute closing ceremony, Ilker Baybars, dean of Carnegie Mellon Qatar, said: “Upon Carnegie Mellon Qatar’s inception, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser communicated a vision to empower Qatari nationals to leave their mark on the field of computer science. We hope through your participation in the Winter Institute, you now possess the tools needed to pursue an education in this field, and Carnegie Mellon Qatar looks forward to helping you achieve that.”

A highlight of the week was a ‘*Programming your robot to save the world*’ workshop, which saw students program a robot to dance to music, and demonstrate it to their families and university faculty on the closing day. The students also participated in an ACT preparation course taught by the Kaplan Corporation and an admissions workshop designed to help strengthen their application to Carnegie Mellon.

“Before attending the Winter Institute I thought computer science was all about coding, but it turns out that coding is just a tool that allows us to do great things. Throughout the week, we were able to see how computer science is continuously evolving, and remains one of the most successful majors anywhere in the world, because of its limitless possibilities,” said Dana Badar, from Al-Bayan Girls School.

In addition to workshops and lectures that touched on the various aspects of computer science, students were introduced to ‘Alice Middle East,’ an interactive animation software designed to help students learn the basics of computer programming, and teach them to apply logical thinking and problem solving techniques that are integral to the computer science field.

The schools that participated in Carnegie Mellon Qatar’s first Winter Institute were: Al Bayan Girls School, Al Jazeera Academy, Al Resala Girls School, Al Wakra Independent, Al-Eman Independent, Amna bint Wahab Independent School for Girls, Khalifa Independent, Omar Bin Al-Khattab, Qatar Ind. School for Girls, Rabaa Aladwya School for Girls, Rowda Bint Mohamed School for Girls and Um Ayman School.

For more information on how to apply to Carnegie Mellon Qatar please visit: www.qatar.cmu.edu/admission.

The application deadline for fall 2015 admission is Sunday, March 1.

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About Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar

Carnegie Mellon University Qatar

As a global leader in education, Carnegie Mellon University is known for its creativity, collaboration across disciplines, and top programs in business, technology and the arts. The university has been home to some of the world's most important thinkers, among them 19 Nobel Laureates and 12 Turing Award winners.

In 2004, Qatar Foundation invited Carnegie Mellon to join Education City, a groundbreaking center for scholarship and research. The campus continues to grow, now providing a prestigious education to more than 400 students from 40 countries. The university offers five undergraduate degree programs in Biological Sciences, Business Administration, Computational Biology, Computer Science and Information Systems.

Students in Qatar join more than 12,000 Carnegie Mellon students across the globe, who will become the next generation of leaders tackling tomorrow's challenges. The university's 95,000 alumni are recruited by some of the world's most innovative organizations.

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