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(For immediate release)

## PRESS RELEASE

### *QF's Academic Bridge Program Hosts Reunion For Past Students*

**Qatar Foundation's Academic Bridge Program (ABP) hosted a reunion yesterday evening, which was open to all of its alumni. The 'ABP Alumni Reunion' was held outside the ABP's iconic Liberal Arts & Sciences Building in Education City. The ABP – the premier English language university foundation program in Qatar - has served over 2500 young men and women since its foundation in 2001. Nearly 90% of those attending have been Qataris, and over 85% of the ABP graduates have later attended English language universities in Qatar or abroad.**

Yesterday's ABP Alumni Gathering was a celebration of the former ABP students' successes & achievements over the past 13 years. The ABP alumni were reunited with their former ABP classmates, they met ABP faculty and staff members and enjoyed traditional Qatari hospitality. The celebrations ran from 5:00 – 8:00pm as large numbers of alumni, from around the world, were welcomed back to the ABP and caught up with each other over karak tea and Arabic coffee which was served under a traditional Qatari tent. Some of the guests were alumni who have completed their university studies and joined the work force to pursue their professional careers, while others were students who are currently studying in universities such as the HBKU partner universities, British universities, American universities, European universities, Canadian universities and universities in Qatar such as Qatar University.

"ABP helped me to get into the university of my dreams," former ABP student and freshman at Northwestern University in Qatar, Aisha Al-Muhannadi, said about ABP.

The event was organized by the ABP's Special Assistant to the Director, Ms. Asmaa Al-Qaysi. "It is great to have this reunion tonight. ABP is a one year program, yet our graduates always come back for a visit and never forget their days at ABP. It makes us very proud to hear about their achievements at university and the work place," Ms. Asmaa Al-Qaysi said.

A current ABP student - Saeed Al-Binnoora – said, “This ABP Alumni Gathering is a like a bridge between current (ABP) students and former students. I feel inspired by the ABP alumni, and I hope that I can follow in their footsteps in the future.”

For the past 13 years, the ABP has not only developed the academic curriculum, but has also built on its student activities, through the promotion of leadership, social, recreational and sporting events. In that time, ABP developed a Learning Resource Center (LRC) for tutoring students in Math, Science, Computers and English Language. ABP also organizes several training courses in IELTS, SAT and ACT, and created “The English Room” to help students enhance their English language skills.

“I love ABP because it’s where I belong to,” Omar Al-Emadi , one of the 2013 graduates said.

“I love ABP because it was my home for one year. Leaving ABP was one of the saddest moments of my life,” Wadha Al-Khori, another 2013 ABP graduate, said.

Distinguished and experienced leadership and knowledge of the latest curriculums and teaching methodologies combined with highly qualified, specialized faculty members provide students with the best and the finest in the field of education. This crucial program was established in Education City to develop Qatari high school graduates’ skills and abilities thus enabling them to apply, enroll and succeed in HBKU Partner universities and top quality international universities that teach in English.

Students who perform well at the ABP and meet basic university admission requirements have the opportunity to enter directly into the first year of undergraduate programs at a number of universities in the U.K. and Germany. In addition, students interested in joining certain universities in Qatar may be given credit for courses they took at the ABP. In 2011, the ABP was awarded five years accreditation by the Commission on English Language Accreditation (CEA) in the United States. This makes it easier to fast-track ABP graduates into universities in the United States without the need for them to complete a university foundation year.



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