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(For immediate release)

PRESS RELEASE

ABP New Student Orientation for Spring Semester 2014

Around 26 newly admitted students joined the Academic Bridge Program (ABP), a center of Qatar Foundation, for this spring semester. The new students attended a two hour orientation program this Monday 6th January in the ABP's LAS building in Education City to learn about ABP policies and procedures and meet ABP administrators and faculty members before they started classes the following day (January 7th).

At the very start of the orientation, ABP Director, Dr. Miles Lovelace welcomed the students to the "ABP family" and briefed them about the program. Dr. Miles advised the new students "to attend all their classes, to always be on time, to do each and every assignment, and to take advantage of all the opportunities the ABP offers them." Dr. Miles went on to highlight the many advantages of studying at the ABP which include, but are not limited to: the ABP's state of the art facilities that are provided by Qatar Foundation; the experienced teachers that ABP employs; the small class size; the standardized test preparation courses and the free personal tutoring provided in ABP's LRC (Learning Resource Center); as well as the many opportunities available to students studying in Education City. He concluded by emphasizing that "Qatar Foundation and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser created the ABP to help you [the student] prepare for university admission in 2014" and that the ABP has had 12 years of great success in preparing generations of students for top ranking English-speaking universities.

Then Assistant Director of Student Services, Ms. Moza Al Boainain introduced the Student Association and the Student Services department listing the many student clubs available (such as music, robotics, photography, Model United Nations, newsletter, social services and volunteering, computer, science, creative writing and football) as well as the various activities and events the department organizes. She encouraged the new students to participate and also urged them to start their university



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application process as soon as possible. Ms. Moza Al Boainain also briefed students on the ABP's general rules of student conduct.

About the New Student Orientation, Ms. Moza explained,

“Our new student orientation program helps to give a successful transition for students who are eager to start their new experience and continue successfully through their learning journey in the ABP. In the Orientation Day new students usually receive all necessary information required during their study at the ABP.”

Assistant Director of Academic Affairs, Dr. Mark Newmark then gave a presentation that summed up the keys to academic and university success in five main points: working hard, doing the homework given, doing one's own work, attending classes on time, asking for help and last but not least - reading.

Dr. Mark added that,

“The ABP welcomes new students who will join us for the spring semester. During this semester, these students will have a full academic load including courses in English, Math, Science, and Computer Skills. Additionally, these students will gain valuable college counseling and have the opportunity to participate in sports, community service, and other activities.

Brief presentations were also made by Admissions and Records Coordinator, Mr. Hassan Zeidan who talked about the ABP grading system and absence policy; the ABP College Placement Counselor, Dr. Marcie Linsey who explained her role and talked briefly about how ABP will help the students with their college applications; the Learning Resource Center (LRC) Coordinator, Ms. Asmaa Al Qaysi who highlighted the many resources available to students in the LRC such as standardized test resources (for IELTS, SAT and ACT), English language support and tutoring in all the subjects offered in the ABP (English, math, science and computer skills); and finally, ABP Librarian, Mr. S.C. Kumaresan who introduced the library, its facilities and resources and its activities. Students were also given a tour of the building.

In the past twelve years, the ABP has graduated over 2500 students, 90% of whom have been Qataris. Most have been successful at the ABP and have entered universities. This year there will be approximately 195 students starting the spring semester, 25% of whom are boys and 75% are girls. About 80% of this class are from Qatar and 20% are from other countries.



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As a center of Qatar Foundation, the Academic Bridge Program enrolls new students twice yearly. The majority of ABP students enroll during the fall semester which starts in August. A limited number of students are accepted in semester two (spring semester). Students enrolling for the spring semester start classes in January. With only two months to go before university deadlines for HBKU partner universities, students are encouraged to focus on their studies and aim for high grades as well as commit diligently to their schedules. 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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