



**QATAR
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STUDENTS FROM THE U.S. AND QATAR SHOWCASE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS AT QFI'S YALLAH C2A EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Selected Students to Join QFI's Exchange Trip to the National Service-Learning Conference in California

Doha, Qatar, February 28, 2017: Students participating in Qatar Foundation International's (QFI) YALLAH Commit to Action (YALLAH C2A) program showcased their final service-learning projects on Sunday, February 26, at the Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU) Student Center in Education City, Doha.

YALLAH C2A trains, mentors, empowers and supports an international cohort of young change-makers to collaborate on and complete service-learning projects that work towards achieving the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Local participants presented their projects to a judging panel during the event, while those based in the U.S. presented through video-conferencing. The judges then selected the winning projects and the students who will attend and present their work at the annual National Service-Learning Conference's (NSLC), 'Dare to Dream' event. The event will take place in California from March 20-27, where the winners will meet with students, educators, and government leaders from around the globe to share ideas and learn how to make further positive change worldwide.

Projects presented to judges included 'Saving the Planet, One Step at a Time'; 'Quality Education: Youth Engagement'; 'Hope through Hygiene among Homeless in Portland'; 'Gender Inequality in Sports'; 'Saving the Turtles of the Gulf'; and 'Service for Workers'.

Event organizer, Anas Ghanim, Programs Intern, QFI, said: "This initiative is a great example of how Qatar Foundation works to unlock the ideas and potential of young people. These students are very passionate about the issues they are presenting here today and they want to make a difference. The C2A program brings together young people from Qatar and the U.S. who have been working on projects over the last five months, some of which have involved cross-cultural collaborations."



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The winners of the showcase included seven students from Qatar and four from the U.S.: Dana Maqboul Al Ali; Ayah Al-Ansari; Juntae Park; Grace Castillo; Reem Al Janahi; Dana Smiley; Lana Sami Abu Shanab; Lina Draidia; Sarah Asiedu; Adriana Noriega; and Lina Nayel.

Showcase winner Dana Maqboul Al Ali, a student at Qatar Academy Doha, said: “Our project aims to raise awareness on the effects of water pollution on sea turtles, and we show how the solution is recycling plastics and other materials. I believe an event like this is very important to help raise awareness of global issues and to allow people to focus on the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.”

Fellow winner Lina Draidia, a student at Al Bayan Secondary Independent School for Girls, Doha, said: “Being part of C2A has been a life-changing experience. It has given me an amazing opportunity to make a difference to the lives of other young people. Our project focuses on the lack of awareness around the availability of quality education in marginalized communities. I think that allowing the youth to develop these projects is a marvelous idea because we are the same age as the people we are trying to help and we have so much in common with them.”

The program’s judging committee included Mariam Al-Nasr, Senior Event Officer at Education Above All (EAA) Foundation; Amy Meuers, CEO, National Youth Leadership Council; Nasser Al-Khori, Partnership Coordinator at the Education Development Institute (EDI) and member of QFI’s Executive Team; and Nadia Al-Haroon, owner of Opal Beauty Center and CEO of KTL Events Management.

QFI is a U.S.-based member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), and runs the YALLAH C2A program in partnership with the National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC).

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About Qatar Foundation International

Qatar Foundation International (QFI), LLC, is a U.S.-based member of Qatar Foundation (QF). QFI operates as both a grant-making organization, and a convener of thought leaders on issues related to global and international education, open education and education technologies as they intersect with the three core QFI programmatic areas: Arabic language and Arab culture, STE(A)M (STEM plus the Arts), and Youth Engagement.



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QFI inspires meaningful connections to the Arab world by creating a global community of diverse learners and educators and connecting them through effective and collaborative learning environments —inside and outside the classroom.

Through our activities, QFI is committed to providing K-12 students in Qatar, the Americas, and the United Kingdom (UK) with the intellectual, communicative, and cultural competencies that will enable them to be engaged global citizens.

Visit www.qfi.org to learn more.

Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organization that is supporting Qatar on its journey from carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential, for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world. QF was co-founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Qatar Foundation's Chairperson. QF's work encompasses education, research and community development. World-class universities are brought to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy.

At the same time, QF builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercializing solutions through key sciences. The Foundation also works to foster a progressive society while enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar's heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>