

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For information contact:

Lesley Kriewald  
Texas A&M University at Qatar  
Lesley.Kriewald@qatar.tamu.edu  
+974.4423.0424

2 May 2016

### **Texas A&M at Qatar and Maersk Oil Qatar announce third annual STEM Educator of the Year contest**

Texas A&M University at Qatar and Maersk Oil Qatar have announced the third annual STEM Educator of the Year award competition for Qatar's top teacher in math and science, as part of the Dhia: Engineering Leaders program.

The Dhia partnership between Texas A&M at Qatar and Maersk Oil Qatar supports the development of Qatar's knowledge-based economy through outreach programs designed to inspire young people in Qatar to take up science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in school and university. STEM education in primary, preparatory and secondary schools is central to these efforts, and the STEM Educator of the Year award recognizes outstanding educators whose work contributes to exceptional STEM education in Qatar.

Lewis Affleck, Managing Director of Maersk Oil Qatar, said, "We are proud to support STEM Educator of the Year for the third time. The award reflects Maersk Oil Qatar's continuing commitment to promoting STEM education in Qatar, building local skills capacity and to supporting development and progress in engineering and science education. Teachers are a fundamental and influential part of a young person's experience in engaging with the world of science and engineering. We want to ensure that top level educators receive the recognition they deserve for the important role they play in inspiring and developing Qatar's next generation of scientists and engineers."

The STEM Educator of the Year award commends the commitment of teachers and the positive impact they are having on young people in Qatar. This initiative encourages educators to instruct students in innovative ways and represents direct efforts to support Qatar's human and social development, which will drive the country's economic and environmental development through engineers and scientists.

Wasan Yousif Muhsin Al-Ani, a chemistry teacher at Amna Bint Wahab Secondary School for Girls, was named the 2015 Engineering Leaders STEM Educator of the Year. She was nominated for the award for her inclusive educational strategy — described as “hands-on and minds-on” — that has enabled many of her students to achieve top rankings in the national comprehensive exams during the past five years. She succeeded Faiza Hassan Musa, a chemistry teacher at Al Bayan Educational Complex for Girls, who won the inaugural award in 2014.

Dr. Ann Kenimer, interim dean of Texas A&M at Qatar, said, “The STEM Educator of the Year award represents direct efforts to support Qatar’s human and social development, which will drive the country’s economic and environmental development through engineers and scientists. By recognizing the teachers who are preparing young people to enter universities, develop into this country’s future leaders and build Qatar’s technical workforce, Maersk Oil Qatar and Texas A&M at Qatar are making a real difference in STEM education locally and in engineering the leaders of tomorrow.”

Kenimer also thanked Maersk Oil Qatar for its visionary leadership in supporting Qatar’s children, the country’s future and achieving the goals put forward in Qatar National Vision 2030.

Eligible candidates for the award are teachers of STEM disciplines in independent, private and international primary, preparatory and high schools in Qatar are eligible for nomination for the STEM Educator of the Year award. Nominees must have been employed by their nominating school for at least one full academic year and be currently employed by the nominating school. Nominations are due 21 May.

A selection committee will review nomination packets and choose the winning teacher, who will receive a cash prize of 20,000 Qatari riyals. Full details about the competition are available at [www.stem.qa](http://www.stem.qa)

# # #

#### About Texas A&M University at Qatar

Texas A&M University, recognized as having one of the premier engineering programs in the world, has offered undergraduate degrees in chemical engineering, electrical and computer engineering, mechanical engineering and petroleum engineering at Qatar Foundation’s Education City campus since 2003, and graduate degrees in chemical engineering since fall 2011. Texas A&M at Qatar has awarded more than 635 degrees since 2007. In addition to engineering courses, Texas A&M at Qatar provides classes in science, mathematics, liberal arts and the humanities. All four of the engineering programs offered at Texas A&M at Qatar are accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET. The curricula offered at Texas A&M at Qatar are materially the same as those offered at the main campus in College Station, Texas, and the courses in Doha are taught in English in a co-educational setting. The reputation for excellence is the same, as is the commitment to equip engineers to lead the next generation of engineering advancement. Faculty from around the world are attracted to Texas A&M at Qatar to provide this

educational experience and to participate in research activities now valued at more than \$224 million, and that address issues important to the State of Qatar. Visit [www.qatar.tamu.edu](http://www.qatar.tamu.edu).