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## **ABP's new Director, Dr. Bryan K. Lewallen meets the press**

**Doha, September 1, 2014 –The Academic Bridge Program (ABP), a center of Qatar Foundation held a press conference to introduce Dr. Bryan K. Lewallen, the ABP's new Director to the local press. The conference was held in the ABP's iconic LAS building in Education City.**

At the start of the conference Dr. Miles Lovelace, ABP Consultant and former Director of the Academic Bridge Program, introduced Dr. Bryan K. Lewallen. Dr. Bryan then proceeded to welcome the members of the press, introduce himself and give a general overview of the ABP.

“I will begin by telling you a little about myself. For the last 31 years, I have worked as a teacher and as an administrator in the United States, Colombia, Peru, Chile, Indonesia, and Morocco. I have also taught masters and doctoral level classes in Education Administration at Boston University. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from The University of Texas at Austin, a Master of Education degree from Texas State University, and Doctorate in Education Administration, Training, and Policy Studies from Boston University, with a Specialization in International School Leadership,” he began.

“On the personal side, I have been married to Fabiola Mejia for the last 24 years, and I have two sons, William, who is 23 years old and Nicolas, who is 20,” he added.

Dr. Bryan continues to explain that the Academic Bridge Program of Qatar Foundation is the premier English language university foundation program in Qatar and the Gulf region and that this is the ABP's 14<sup>th</sup> year of operation. So far, the Academic Bridge Program has graduated 2,650 students from the one-year program that prepares young men and women for university study. More than 80% of ABP graduates have been Qatari.



مركز الجسر الأكاديمي  
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## Academic Bridge Program برنامج الجسر الأكاديمي

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Under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, the ABP is the Center of Qatar Foundation charged with preparing Qatari high school graduates, with strong academic backgrounds, for admission to the programs at Qatar University that are taught in English as well as to and other universities in Qatar, and other universities in the United Kingdom and the United States. A special focus of the Academic Bridge Program is to prepare students for admission to one of the HBKU partner universities in Education City. Last year, 43% of ABP graduates were offered admission to one or more of these distinguished universities and over the past 13 years, almost 90% of ABP graduates have gained admission to universities, both here and around the world.

ABP students' success is directly related to the high quality of teaching and learning that occurs each day at the ABP. ABP faculty and staff members are highly experienced and educated professionals, who come from 16 different national backgrounds. The vast majority of them possess at least two university degrees, and six hold earned doctorates. Many of the ABP faculty members also have teaching experience at the university level.

One of the most important aspects of the Academic Bridge Program that sets it apart from other foundation programs is the individual attention that each ABP student receives from ABP faculty and staff. Outside of the classroom, students may receive academic assistance from teachers during designated office hours and throughout the day in the ABP's Learning Resource Center (LRC). ABP faculty and staff are dedicated to providing our students with the help and support that they need to successfully complete our rigorous program of study.

Small class sizes also allow teachers the opportunity to know each and every one of her/his students, both as individuals and as learners. Class sizes in English, mathematics, science, and computer skills classes range from 12-20 students. The facilities provided to the ABP by Qatar Foundation are also among the best in the region, providing students with an environment that is conducive to learning.

The ABP Student Services Department also provides invaluable support to ABP students, helping them to adjust to their new environment and organizing activities and clubs, such as the Student Association, the Social Services & Volunteering club and Football, which enrich their learning experience.



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Mini-courses, held in the Learning Resource Center (LRC) after school, are also offered to ABP students to help them to prepare for both the IELTS and ACT tests; these standardized tests are required for admission to most universities. The ABP also has a full-time college counselor, whose main job is to assist ABP students in applying for university admission.

Each semester, students of the Academic Bridge Program take two to four English courses; one mathematics course; one science course; and one computer skills course. A one semester communication course has also been added this year to strengthen our students' presentation skills and better prepare them to successfully participate in university classes.

A robotics course is also offered after school to interested students with good computer skills. The ABP also has a robotics club and a robotics team that participates in exhibitions and competitions.

This year, our current enrollment, as of today, stands at 260 students, an increase of approximately 40 students over last year's enrollment at this time. Almost 80% of those students are Qatari; the other 20% are from 33 different nations.

Cross-registration allows ABP's most advanced students the opportunity to take certain classes for college credit at one or more of the HBKU partner universities in Education City. This year, 66 students are currently enrolled in 71 university classes, while attending the ABP. We are very proud of these students who have qualified for this opportunity during the fall semester.

Dr. Bryan concluded his speech by thanking ABP administrators for facilitating an excellent start to the academic year 2014-2015

*Keywords: ACADEMIC BRIDGE PROGRAM, ABP, QATAR FOUNDATION, EDUCATION CITY, DR. BRYAN K. LEWALLEN, NEW DIRECTOR, FOUNDATION PROGRAM,*

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## About the Academic Bridge Program

The [Academic Bridge Program](#) (ABP) is a center of [Qatar Foundation](#). The mission of the ABP is to provide high school graduates of Qatari high schools (and other similar schools) who meet the admission requirements with the academic and personal skills for success in reputable English language universities around the world, with special emphasis on preparing students for the universities at Qatar Foundation. Since the launch of the ABP in 2001, the program has developed a model curriculum including English, math, science, and computer skills, combined with a wide range of other activities such as debate, MUN, clubs, school newspaper, sports teams, and student government experience. The ABP is fully accredited by the Commission on English Language Accreditation (CEA) in the United States. This makes it easier for ABP graduates to fast track into universities in the United States without a university foundation year.