



عضو مؤسسة قطر
Member of Qatar Foundation

Academic Bridge Program برنامج الجسر الأكاديمي

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ABP Welcomes the Class of 2015 For Fall Orientation

Doha, August 10, 2014 –The Academic Bridge Program (ABP), a center of Qatar Foundation organized an orientation for approximately 250 new students on Sunday, August 10th and Monday, August 11th, from 9:00am to 1:00pm in the Learning Resources Center (LRC) of the ABP's Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) Building, in Education City. This year, the ABP also welcomes a new Director, Dr. Bryan Lewallen.

During orientation, the class of 2015 was introduced to the ABP's facilities, policies and activities, as well as, to the administrators, faculty and staff who will be working closely with the students throughout the upcoming academic year. A College Information session, a Goal-setting and Reflection session, an Academic Integrity session and a Community Building activity were also part of the program.

Around 77% of this year's students are Qatari and the rest of the students come from around 15 different countries (Sri Lanka, Algeria, Gambia, Cyprus, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and others). Nearly 70% of this year's class is female. Commenting on the start of the ABP's 14th academic year, ABP's new Director, Dr. Bryan Lewallen, said that he was "very pleased with the number of students who have qualified for acceptance to the 2014-2015 Academic Bridge Program." He also added that, "Our faculty and staff are working hard to see that everything is in order for the first day of classes on August 17th, and [that] we look forward to a very successful and rewarding school year. I am very proud to be a part of the ABP this year."

Dr. Bryan K. Lewallen (USA) joins the ABP as Director this August 2014. He has 31 years of experience in education and has worked as a school administrator for 26 years. During that time, he served as a teacher, principal, university instructor, and school director. Dr. Bryan has worked in the USA, Colombia, Peru, Chile, Indonesia, and Morocco. He holds a bachelor's degree in



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education from The University of Texas at Austin, an M.Ed. in education administration from Texas State University, and an Ed.D. in education administration, training, and policy studies, with a specialization in international school leadership from Boston University.

The two-day orientation program started on Sunday 10th with an introductory welcome from Dr. Miles Lovelace, ABP Consultant and former ABP Director. This was followed by a presentation by Ms. Alia Khairat, Senior Student Services Officer (on behalf of Ms. Moza AlBoainain, Assistant Director for Student Services), explaining the ABP Student Services' policies & activities. Students were then introduced to the library and the LRC, given a tour of the ABP's LAS building and attended a College Information session.

The second day of orientation (Monday 11th) started with a presentation outlining the keys to success by Dr. Mark Newmark, Assistant Director for Academic Affairs. When asked about the new academic year Dr. Mark remarked that, "this is an exciting year for the ABP." Dr. Mark then went on to explain that,

ABP has a new director, a significantly larger number of students, and several new initiatives. One of these new initiatives is an outreach program that will help current high school students develop their English skills through classes twice a week at the ABP. Another fresh initiative is a communications course for our academic level students. This communications class will help students develop research skills, communication skills, and confidence. ABP students will also benefit this year from the completion of a number of beautiful construction projects at Qatar Foundation. The completion of those projects should make it easier for our students to take cross-registration classes at the various universities in Education City.

Mr. Hassan Zeidan, Admissions & Records Coordinator then explained the ABP calendar, marking periods, grades and report cards.

It is worth mentioning that all the new students took an "Accuplacer" (placement) test, either on the 6th or the 7th of August. The ABP Department Supervisors then use these test results to place



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each student in a level that is most suitable to their academic level in English, math, science and computer skills.

Since the launch of the ABP in 2001, the program has graduated over 2650 students. Over 85% of the ABP graduates have later attended English language universities in Qatar or abroad. In addition to the ABP's new Director, the program has one new international faculty, this year, from the United States. All of the ABP faculty members have experience ranging from seven years to 25 years, with an average of 15 years of experience. Most have one or more master's degrees and some have doctorate degrees.

Keywords: ACADEMIC BRIDGE PROGRAM, ABP, QATAR FOUNDATION, EDUCATION CITY, NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION, FOUNDATION PROGRAM, NEW DIRECTOR

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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.



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