

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Record Year For Enrollment As VCUQatar Dean Welcomes 91 New Students To Campus

Doha, Qatar

Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar (VCUQatar) Dean Akel I. Kahera, Ph.D. has welcomed a total of 91 new Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Arts, and Master of Fine Arts students to campus in what is a record for total enrollment at VCUQatar.

The incoming class brings the total student population at VCUQatar to 363, a rise of 12 percent on the previous year, and it includes 86 undergraduate (Foundation, Fashion, Graphic and Interior Design, Painting & Printmaking and Art History) and five graduate students. In addition, VCUQatar is hosting three exchange students from our home campus in Richmond, Virginia and 32 Education City cross-registered students. The university boasts a truly diverse student body, with 61 percent of VCUQatar students being Qatar citizens and the remaining 39 percent representing 41 nationalities.

As VCUQatar enters its 19th year, the university strives to contribute to the vitality of human, social, economic and environmental development in Qatar and the region through creative innovation, expression and collaboration. The university's alumni are leaders in Qatar's cultural and creative professions, as well as participants in addressing the global challenges identified as key to the region's future

"In my role as Dean, my primary duties are to build a community of scholars, to set direction and to achieve a common purpose as defined in our mission and vision," said Kahera. "In so doing, I remain committed to the proposition that VCUQatar is creative, critical, dynamic, curious and original."

VCUQatar, originally called the Shaqab College of Design Arts, was the first university branch campus to be established at Qatar Foundation in 1998. The first students graduated in 2002.

About Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar:

VCUQatar is the international branch campus of Virginia Commonwealth University's School of the Arts, a top-ranked art and design program in the U.S. Established in 1998 through a partnership with Qatar Foundation, VCUQatar offers students the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in fashion design, graphic design, interior design and painting and printmaking, a Bachelor of Arts degree in art history and a Master of Fine Arts degree in design.

A vibrant community with global reach, VCUQatar promises students a lifelong passion for and conversation about the arts. As the foremost example of its commitment to global

outreach and education, VCUQatar presents valuable opportunities for cross-cultural exchange and connects VCUQatar to the influential art and design world of the Middle East. The campus attracts renowned contributors to contemporary visual culture for speaking and teaching engagements, and hosts two major international events--the design conference Tasmeeem Doha and the Hamad bin Khalifa Islamic Art Symposium.

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. Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, QF is chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser.

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>