

PRESS RELEASE

HBKU celebrates excellence & commitment across Education City with the 3rd Annual Takreem Awards

Doha, 19 April 2015 – Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF), recently brought together students, faculty, and staff from the Education City community for the 3rd Annual Takreem Awards. The award ceremony, held on April 14th at the HBKU Student Center, recognized achievements from the past academic year and served as a rallying point for community members to engage and inspire each other towards further success. This year, 12 awards were presented in the areas of leadership, community service, healthy sportsmanship, academic success, diversity, and sustainability.

Nominations were open for a period of 3 weeks, encouraging Education City community members to take a moment to reflect upon the past academic year and consider the contributions and accomplishments of their peers and colleagues. With the continued growth of HBKU in 2014-2015, the award ceremony was the largest yet and saw over 100 nominations. Award winners were identified not only by their contributions to the collaborative spirit at Education City, but also for their commitment to ethical action, innovative thinking, and civic engagement.

Ameena Hussain, Director of Student Life at HBKU, mentioned: “Every year, I am amazed at the growth and breadth of new programs and activities initiated by students of HBKU and its partner universities. The Takreem Awards is one way in which we wish to highlight the achievements of the Education City community as a whole and instill a sense of pride within those who study or work here.”

She continued: “By taking a moment to pause and reflect on the past year, we not only celebrate our successes, but also identify where there is room for improvement. As a wider community, we want to be known not only for the academic rigor of our degrees and programs, but also for the talent, creativity, leadership, and altruism of our student bodies.”

Bilal Shakir, a Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar ‘15 student, affiliated with Not Your Average Spring Break (NYASB), accepted the award for Service Project of the Year. The annual service learning trip, sponsored by Hamad bin Khalifa University and Reach Out to Asia, took a group of 24 students to Bayyat, Indonesia this year. Shakir commented: “NYASB program is essentially a year-long community service program that culminates in an international student service learning trip. We had semester-long workshops every week to educate participants about the difficulties and challenges of service learning, and to familiarize themselves with the region and the community we would be serving. Like any group, in the beginning, some people were shy and we had to develop trust, but by the end, everyone was laughing together and enjoying each other’s company. It was very rewarding to see that change happen in front of me.”

He added: “I was one of the two student leaders who led the trip this year and it feels great to know that the effort and hard work we put in to these initiatives is recognized by HBKU through efforts like the Takreem Awards.”

Other award winners included Siwon Kim (Promising First Year Student), Francine Dingaslan (Student Leader of the Year), and Ali Najeeb (Athlete of the Year). A Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar alumnus, Basil Mahfouz, was recognized with the Safeer Award for his continued involvement in local and international events, ongoing participation in EC community events and activities, and professional career track record of leadership skills.

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About Hamad bin Khalifa University

Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, is an emerging research university building upon unique collaborations with local and international partners. Located in Education City, HBKU seeks to provide unparalleled opportunities for scholarship, teaching, discovery, and learning for all of its students through an array of interdisciplinary programs.

HBKU’s partners are Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Texas A&M University at Qatar, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, Northwestern University in Qatar, HEC Paris in Qatar, and UCL Qatar.