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Texas A&M at Qatar launches new center for excellence in teaching and learning

A new center recently launched by Texas A&M University at Qatar will be dedicated to excellence and innovation in teaching and transforming engineering education in Qatar.

The Center for Teaching and Learning brings together three components: the Academic Success Collaborative, which provides tutoring and writing consultations at no cost to all Texas A&M at Qatar students as well as all Education City students enrolled in Texas A&M at Qatar classes; the Initiative in Teaching Innovation and Excellence, which will provide teaching support for all faculty, but especially new faculty, faculty teaching writing-intensive courses, and faculty looking for opportunities for innovation and improvement; and the Engineering Enrichment Program, which began as an extra-curricular program providing certification and technical training but now — thanks to a gift from QAPCO — will focus on communication, presentation, leadership, teamwork, and intercultural skills in and out of the classroom.

His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Saleh Al-Sada, minister of energy and industry for the State of Qatar and chair of Texas A&M at Qatar's Joint Advisory Board, was an invited speaker at the launch of the Center for Teaching and Learning. H.E. Dr. Al-Sada said the center was an "affirmation of our collective desire to enhance engineering education in Qatar," especially exciting in light of next week's graduation.

"Texas A&M at Qatar is a vital strategic partner in Qatar's efforts to develop human capacity to its fullest," H.E. Dr. Al-Sada said. "The Center for Teaching and Learning and its programs are designed to develop leaders in engineering and education to focus on one important outcome: to create engineering leaders here in Qatar."

Speaking on behalf of QAPCO, Mr. Abdulrahman Sultan Al Darwish, Strategic Qatarization Manager of QAPCO, said he believed the Center for Teaching and

Learning will offer quality education by providing learning support to those who need it, and foster a healthy learning environment for students, faculty and staff.

Dr. César O. Malavé, dean of Texas A&M at Qatar, said that Texas A&M at Qatar is already known for its award-winning, innovative educators and its excellent students and graduates, but that the branch campus should always strive to do and be more. The small size, interdisciplinary nature and intercultural faculty, staff and student body provide a unique learning environment for engineering education.

“The Center for Teaching and Learning is a campus resource and leader,” Malavé said. “We must build on our foundation and embrace opportunities to integrate and collaborate for innovation and excellence. Our goal is to transform engineering education here in Qatar to create engineering graduates who can lead teams to tackle problems we cannot yet imagine.”

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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 750 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 \$236.4 million, and that address issues important to the State of Qatar. Visit www.qatar.tamu.edu.