

**Press Contact:**

Meike Kaan | Executive Director  
Communications and External Relations  
Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar  
PO Box 8095, Al Luqta Street, Doha, Qatar  
T: +974 4402 0558 | M: +974 30133446  
[mckaan@vcu.edu](mailto:mckaan@vcu.edu)

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**VCUQatar Announces Winners of 2015 AEB Awards**

Doha, Qatar – Arab Engineering Bureau presented the 2015 awards for Creative Achievement and Potential and Design Excellence to two junior and two graduating senior students from Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar’s Graphic and Interior Design Departments during a ceremony held in honor of the students.

AEB’s CEO and Chief Architect Ibrahim Jaidah presented the Arab Engineering Bureau Award for Design Excellence in Graphic Design to Noor Al Thani, and Noha Fahmy for Design Excellence in Interior Design. These awards, granted to outstanding graduating seniors from VCUQatar’s Graphic Design and Interior Design Departments, were instituted eight years ago by Jaidah to encourage and assist graduating students as they start their careers as designers in Qatar and the region.

“As a graduating student, I am very excited to start my career with such a special recognition. It is an honor to be recognized as the recipient of the AEB Award for the second time. As it did previously, this award from Ibrahim Jaidah will be an incentive to set and achieve even higher expectations for myself,” said Noha Fahmy.

The recently instituted Arab Engineering Bureau Award for Creative Achievement and Potential was presented to graphic design junior Hazem Asif and interior design junior Mark Bermejo. These awards aim to help the junior students recognize their true potential, create leadership and encourage them to continue developing their skills through their senior year.

“I am extremely honored and grateful to receive this prestigious award. I would like to thank the Graphic Design Department and Ibrahim Jaidah of Arab Engineering Bureau for this recognition of my accomplishments and efforts. I feel more committed than ever to work hard and contribute positively towards both VCUQatar and the local design community. The award will hopefully provide me with the opportunity to travel to Shanghai, China this summer to do an internship at Frog Design, a global design and innovation firm. I strongly believe that this internship will provide me with unparalleled motivation to challenge myself as a designer to make strategic decisions in context of living in a different culture and society,” said Hazem Asif.

“It is my great pleasure to acknowledge, for the ninth year in a row, the young and exceptional generation of designers who have completed their education at Virginia

Commonwealth University in Qatar. Since last year, we are also recognizing junior students who have demonstrated great potential in design. As a creative individual practicing in the developing State of Qatar, it gives me a great pleasure to see local talent fostered in the local environment; and I am eager to see this young generation grow into practicing professionals recognized in their respective fields,” said Jaidah. “As an architectural and engineering design consultancy firm, AEB is committed to serving the community where our employees live and work by supporting educational programs, while also serving as ambassadors of local heritage and architecture.”

“I’d like to congratulate our students on winning these prestigious awards,” said VCUQatar Dean Allyson Vanstone. “It is extremely rewarding to know that the knowledge and skills our students are acquiring at VCUQatar are preparing them for these new opportunities on their paths towards their career and life goals. The AEB Design awards are an important recognition of their commitment, and initiatives such as these create a foundation that both inspires and prepares young people to enter and sustain design professions,” she added.

Besides the awards, AEB and Jaidah continue to partner with VCUQatar through their participation in Tasmeeem Doha, VCUQatar’s biennial international design conference, as well as by offering internship opportunities to VCUQatar students.

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### **About Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar:**

VCUQatar is the Qatar campus of the prestigious Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Richmond, Virginia. 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 & printmaking, a Bachelor of Arts degree in art history and a Master of Fine Arts degree in design.

In addition to a comprehensive annual public events program that includes a wide range of exhibitions, lectures and fashion events, the University hosts the biennial international design conference Tasmeeem and the biennial Hamad bin Khalifa Islamic Art Symposium, attracting globally recognized designers, academics and thinkers while fostering sustainable, university-community partnerships that enhance the educational, economic and cultural vitality of Qatar. For more information please visit [www.qatar.vcu.edu](http://www.qatar.vcu.edu)

### **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>*