



PRESS RELEASE

High School Students Get a Taste of College Life

Doha, July 26, 2009 – For many high school students in Qatar, college is an exciting possibility with a daunting entry process. With its interviews and essays, application to college seems to be a road full of hurdles. But over the past two weeks, WCMC-Q hosted its second annual Pre College Enrichment Program to give 22 high school students a sense of what getting into college is really about.

“I always heard that students at Cornell and other universities spend all of their time studying,” said Sarah Abdulaziz Al-Derham, a grade 12 student at Qatar Secondary School for Girls. “Now I see that they are very happy and that they all know how to manage their time and are working hard but having fun—I spent time with WCMC-Q students and understand so much more now.”

Throughout the two weeks, students from high schools around Doha participated in exercises that gave them hands-on experience and first-hand information. From modules on laboratory safety and physics experiments, to essay writing and mock interview sessions, the students gained insights that will prepare them for the next chapter of their lives. And to help them further, faculty and staff shared tips with students from their many years of interviewing and teaching at the college level.

“Students need to be aware of the various admissions requirements and time lines. They need to be prepared to apply as early as September 1st and complete their application by March 1st, so we wanted to give them a head start by offering them this program,” said Noha Saleh, director of student recruitment at WCMC-Q. “

While WCMC-Q organized and hosted the program, they incorporated tours of other colleges in Education City— students explored and attended presentations at Virginia Commonwealth University, Georgetown, Texas A&M, Carnegie Mellon and Qatar University in addition to attending a session on the Academic Bridge Program.

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“We wanted to show the students what Education City has to offer. We want them to go to college and to be successful, and we want them to know that they can do it; it’s attainable,” said Donney Moroney, WCMC-Q’s student academic services manager.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Established in partnership with Qatar Foundation, WCMC-Q is part of the Weill Medical College of Cornell University, the first American institution to offer its M.D. degree overseas. WCMC-Q offers a complete and integrated educational program, comprising the two-year Pre-medical Program, followed by the four-year Medical Program, with teaching by Cornell faculty. There are separate admission processes for each Program, guided by the standards of admission in use at Cornell University in Ithaca, and its Medical College in New York City.

Website: www.qatar-med.cornell.edu

About Qatar Foundation

Founded in 1995 by decree of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, Qatar Foundation is a non-profit organization focusing on education, scientific research and community development. Under Qatar Foundation’s umbrella are Education City, which comprises elite universities, several academic and training programmes and Qatar Science and Technology Park, which boasts more than 21 world class companies involved in scientific research and development.

Chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned, Qatar Foundation also aims to enhance lives through community development initiatives including Doha Debates, Reach out To Asia and Al Jazeera Childrens Channel. Joint venture partnerships in the areas of design, ICT, telecommunications, policy studies and event management contribute to fulfilling the objectives of Qatar Foundation.

Website: www.qf.org.qa

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