

Professor honored with top University service award

Friday, October 29, 2010

A leading contributor to educational reform across the Arab world has been awarded the Abdul Hamid Hallab REP Service Excellence Award for his work with AUB's Regional External Program (REP).

Ghazi Ghaith, AUB professor and chairman of the University's Education Department was honored for his work in serving "the peoples of the Middle East and beyond," in line with the award's criteria.



The winner is recognized as a consultant who has made major contributions to the REP mission of providing "the Middle East and North Africa with world class professional services...while reflecting AUB core values and the University's commitment to service excellence." Since 1976, REP has extended consulting services and assumed management roles for over 20 higher education initiatives throughout the region.

As a REP consultant, Ghaith has helped educational reform efforts in several countries in the Middle East and the North Africa region, including Lebanon, as founder of intensive English programs. He has worked with the REP office for over a decade through projects involving program design and evaluation, admission, and exit exam construction and analysis, and faculty recruitment and training.

In particular, Ghaith has implemented three professional development workshops for teachers in Qatar through the School of Education of Qatar University, and devised an operational plan for the evaluation of the institution's Foundation Year Program. He has also been involved in Prince Fahad Bin Sultan University (FBSU) project, where his contributions laid the groundwork for the development of comprehensive curricular guides and packages, preparing students for college study, and recruiting staff.

Ghaith was also instrumental in designing and shaping the development of the Foundation Year Program and the Teaching Diploma and MA programs in education, as well as improving communication skills courses within the English Department of Dhofar University in Oman. He also designed and monitored the Foundation Year Program at Mohammed Al Manaa College of Health Sciences in Saudi Arabia. In addition, Ghaith has aided the preparation and submission of several REP proposals for funding. Foundation year programs are pre-university programs that prepare high school students for university by helping them polish their English skills or meet any required prerequisites.

His professional interests include curriculum development and material writing and his research focuses on the applications of cooperative learning in language teaching and teacher education.