

For Immediate Release



## **AUB raises \$25.5 million for financial aid for students**

Beirut, Lebanon- 23/01/2013 -The American University of Beirut has raised \$25.5 million towards financial aid in just three years, surpassing its initial goal by \$5 million.

Financial aid, including student scholarships and grants, allows the university to attract a more diverse pool of applicants, thus enriching each student's academic and personal experience.

"AUB prepares its students for active citizenship by introducing them to questions of diversity and identity and by encouraging them to reflect on the richness of mankind's global cultures and the essential commonality of the human race," explained AUB President Peter Dorman. "These questions are more compelling and the answers are more thoughtful when this inquiry takes place at a university that champions tolerance, diversity, and dialogue. It is this interaction that defines the AUB experience."

Provost Ahmad Dallal described the news as a "landmark achievement" in AUB's history.

"This initiative supports one of the University's highest priorities and will inspire our next fundraising campaign," said Dorman upon learning that AUB had surpassed its goal to raise \$20 million for financial aid.

Because of an additional \$5 million pledged by five generous donors in September 2009 to seed the initiative, AUB succeeded in raising \$25.5 million - exclusively for financial aid - in just the last three years.

Thousands of donors - 4,386 to be exact - participated in the 34-month drive to build AUB's financial aid program. They were a diverse group: long-time donors and first-time supporters, alumni with strong ties to the University, and friends who have only recently joined the AUB family; the group includes individuals, organizations, businesses, and foundations from 41 countries around the world.

This successful fundraising drive is just the most recent in a series of efforts that AUB has launched in recent years to expand its financial aid program from \$2.6 million in 2001-02 to \$17.1 million in 2011-12. During the last five years, AUB has also received grants from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) totaling more than \$26.7 million to support various scholarship programs. It was also awarded an additional \$7.5 million through the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) that is being used to provide scholarships for regional students.

While most donors made individual contributions, others banded together to make class gifts or to contribute as members of WAAAUB alumni chapters. Some donors made major gifts to establish named endowed scholarship funds, others contributed more than once; meanwhile, thousands of small gifts contributed to the success of this campaign as well. Every donation mattered.

When asked why they donate, many AUB supporters point to the University's deep roots and strong commitment to the region.

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**For more information please contact:**

Maha Al-Azar, Associate Director for Media Relations, [ma110@aub.edu.lb](mailto:ma110@aub.edu.lb), 01-353 228

**Note to Editors**

**About AUB**

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 600 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,000 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full service 420-bed hospital.

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