

For Immediate Release



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AUB wins the 2016 MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship

The American University of Beirut (AUB) has been awarded the prestigious 2016 MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship. The Tallories Network announced the winners for this year on Monday on behalf of the MacJannet Foundation and the 2016 Selection Committee with the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (CCECS) at AUB in first place.

“For the eighth year in a row, we had a very difficult task evaluating 48 nominations received from 38 member universities in 18 countries. Each and every program nominated is a testament to the commitment our members have to their communities and to developing student leaders who are actively engaged with society,” Tallories Network said.

The network, which is hosted at Tufts University in the US, is an international association of institutions committed to strengthening the civic roles and social responsibilities of higher education.

Commenting on the news, the Director of CCECS at AUB Rabih Shibli said: “This prize is important to us because it emphasizes the positive impact that AUB students, faculty, and staff have been able to create through the CCECS and our community partners as we face one of the worst humanitarian crises of this century. We hope this recognition will encourage the growing civic engagement efforts by institutionalizing the culture of service-learning in all universities across the MENA region.”

Since its inception in 2008, CCECS at AUB has aimed to develop a culture of service and civic leadership within the AUB community and provide opportunities for university students. The Center's operations are defined by four crosscutting components: Outreach and volunteerism, community development projects, supporting service-learning, and the university scholarship programs.

The Center serves as a hub for bridging theory and practice through the dynamic interaction between academia, socially responsible stakeholders, and local community partners. CCECS pushes the boundaries of civic engagement to tackle the most pressing challenges facing Lebanon and the MENA region. A demonstration of the Center's conceptual and operational framework is the Syria Relief Project (SRP). In this context, the Center has championed interventions engaging refugees and their Lebanese host communities within the areas of education, shelter, sanitation, psychosocial wellbeing, and food security.

Through the project named "Ghata: Bringing Education to Informal Tented Settlements" in partnership with the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), Reach Out to Asia foundation (ROTA) and the local Lebanese non-governmental organization KAYANY, CCECS and the concerned AUB faculties have successfully assembled Ghata schools, catering to over 2,000 Syrian refugee children.

This project is just one example of the community-engaged initiatives, learning, and research that CCECS supports spanning issues ranging from the impacts of war on children, poverty, the dearth of public spaces in Beirut, to rural economic development. In all of its work, CCECS utilizes an assets-based approach, building upon latent capacities in communities as it develops the civic capacities of student volunteers.

Back in November 2015, AUB, represented by CCECS, was ranked as the "most civically engaged campus" in the Middle East and North Africa in a first regional annual competition held by the Ma'an Arab University Alliance.

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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 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 130 programs leading to 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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