

# PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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**ASU**  
جامعة العلوم التطبيقية  
APPLIED SCIENCE UNIVERSITY

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 34th issue of the 3rd year of the President's News Digest.

In this issue of the News Digest, I will address the subject of “benchmarking academic programs”.



The Webster's Dictionary defines benchmarking as “a standard or reference by which others can be measured or judged”. Another definition is included “benchmarking means finding out who is the best in an area, studying how they work, and adopting the best practices that are suitable to your own organization.” By Dew, J. & Nearing, M (2004), Continuous Quality Improvement in Higher Education

Benchmarking allows academic staff to determine whether students have reached expected learning outcomes in their academic programs relative to national, regional, and international data. Benchmarking of academic programs can include measures related to admissions criteria, students support, assessment methods, suitability of study plans, course descriptions, students projects, students attainments and achievements, drop out rates, achievements of learning outcomes, use of modern teaching methods, the overall student experience of a particular academic program, amongst many others.

The Process of doing the benchmarking exercise should include the following:

- Decide on what to benchmark by examining own programs and identify whom to benchmark against nationally, regionally and internationally.
- Perform data collection in order to fill any gaps in the academic program
- Develop action plan and put implementation and measures in place

ASU has engaged since the beginning of this academic year in a sound and methodic approach to develop outcome-based benchmark reports and has successfully done so with the three programs offered at the College of Arts and Science.

Now it's the turn of all other colleges in the University to follow suit and complete the benchmarking of their academic programs, as this is a requirement by accreditation and program reviews bodies. In addition, benchmarking can help us immensely in continually improving our academic programs.

Finally, I would like to share with you below the outline of a typical Benchmark Report that has been developed through various workshops held at the University, although there could be variances from one report to another depending on the specificities of each program:

- I. Introduction**
  - I.1. Benchmarking in the context of Program Review and Institutional Accreditation requirements
  - I.2. The purpose & policy of benchmarking at ASU
    - I.2.1. Purpose of benchmarking
    - I.2.2. Benchmarking policy
- II. Peer institutions for benchmarking**
  - II.1. Selection
  - II.2. Formal agreement
  - II.3. Context description of peer institutions
- III. How the process is managed (benchmarking methodology)**
  - III.1. Deriving areas to benchmark from measurement framework
  - III.2. Standards for the areas to benchmark
  - III.3. Problems with areas to benchmark as listed in the BQA reports
  - III.4. Research questions
  - III.5. Measurements and methods
  - III.6. Data collection and comparison to external benchmarks (results & outputs)
  - III.7. Learning & Implications for process improvement in the Programme/College
- IV. Research Design & Data Collection: Methodological framework for benchmarking**

## INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Zuhoor Ali Mohamed Ali Hasan

Position: Administrator in the Administrative Affairs Department

### 1. Tell us about yourself: (Your childhood, academic background)

I have one sister and she is everything in my Life. I finished my High school and then obtained my Diploma degree in Human Resource, and Bahrain Labor Law from the Kingdom of Bahrain.

During my studies, I have worked part-time jobs with my father (Safety & Health) as an assistant, to improve myself and enhance my skills and build experience.

### 2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I joined ASU in September 2014. I am working as Administrator in the Administrative Affairs Department, and it is the role I always like because of the direct contact with all ASU staff.

### 3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

My aspiration for ASU is to be one of the best well-known Universities in Bahrain, Gulf region and worldwide.

### 4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy coordinating the work and we feel like home as one family.

## V. Areas of Benchmarking

### V.1. Benchmarking against standard curriculum

V.1.1. Program aims

V.1.2. Knowledge Areas

V.1.3. Validation of PILOs against knowledge areas

V.1.4. (Other relevant dimensions of standard curriculum)

### V.2. Benchmarking against peer institutions

V.2.1. Program Curriculum

V.2.1.1 Program specification - Program aims & graduate attributes

V.2.1.2 Mapping of courses with knowledge areas

V.2.1.3 Program Intended Learning Outcomes

V.2.1.4 Course benchmarking

V.2.1.5 Learning & Implications

V2.2 Program Admission Criteria

V2.3 Teaching & Learning

V2.3.1 Comparative analysis of teaching & learning strategy

V2.3.2 Comparison of Teaching Methods (at course level)

V2.3.3 Learning resources

V2.3.4 Learning & Implications

V2.4 Assessment practices and feedback policy

V2.4.1. Mapping of program assessment methods into formative and summative

V2.4.2 Comparison of Assessment Methods

V2.4.3 Learning & Implications

### V3. Outcome Benchmarking

V3.1 Cohort analysis

## 5. Tell us about your hobbies

I love to travel

## 6. Tell us about your favourite food

Seafood

## 7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

First aid / safety

## 8. Final words

I am very happy to be a part of ASU and I really hope to develop my career, my future and to learn new things, and I wish ASU prosperity and success.

V3.2 Analysis of the learning environment and the student experience

V3.3 Benchmarking analysis of student assessed work

## VI. Implementation (Action Plan)

## VII. Conclusions

## VIII. APPENDICES

### INNOVATION IN TEACHING AWARDS



On Thursday, June 21, 2018, ASU celebrated excellence and innovation in teaching through honoring 3 academic staff members namely Dr Moaiad Khder, Mr Mohammad Nassar and Ms Manal Almatrook who won the awards for best innovative teachers at ASU. The awards were handed by the Chair of the Board of Trustees; Professor Waheeb Al-Khaja and the President of the University; Professor Aouad. The

honored academic staff members were selected based on 6 main criteria:

- Performance in the good teaching conference.
- Creative and innovative thinking in teaching through a submitted teaching philosophy article.
- Course Portfolio.
- Evaluation of other peer colleagues (Peer observation).
- Students' evaluation.
- Annual appraisal.



The committee responsible for managing the award and ceremony was formed by the Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr Assem Al-Hajj, Chaired by Professor Murad Al-Jnabi and the membership of Dr Belal Zaqaibeh, Dr Mohamad Masfaka, Dr Islam Abohela and Dr Mohammed Oudat.



### MEDIC FIRST AID TRAINING

On Thursday, 21 June 2018, Applied Science University held MEDIC First Aid training to a group of staff members, which included Basic Plus CPR, AED, and First Aid for Adults training. The training was conducted by Mr. Mahmoud Janahi



### THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICE ACTIVITIES

#### Honoring ASU by Bahrain Deaf Society for Supporting the Community

On behalf of Applied Science University, the Community Engagement Office was honored by Bahrain Deaf Society for its efforts in supporting and serving the community and the society.

The honoring ceremony took place during the Bahrain Deaf Society Annual Ghabagh at Babco Club on 24 May 2018.

Dr. Mohammad Alaa Al-Hamami, Manager of the Community Engagement Office, and Mr. Thaer Mustafa AlRamini, Member of the Community Engagement Office and Student Care in the Deanship of Students Affairs attended the event.

H.E. Shaihka Aysha AlKahlifa Assistant Undersecretary for Social Welfare and Rehabilitation at the Ministry of Labor and Social Development, Ms. Salma AlAsfour President of Bahrain Deaf Society, Mr. Ebrahim Talib Executive Vice President of Bahrain Oil Company, and Mr. Hassan Yaseen Vice President of the Bahraini Deaf Society; thanked the University for its continuous support to the community in general, and especially to the Deaf and people with special needs.



### “رمضانيات” Series on its Instagram Account came to an end

The Community Engagement Office at the University published “ASU\_رمضانيات” series during the Holy month of Ramadan on its social media account. Around more than 50 individual including academic and administrative University staff, students, and experts from the local community participated in the ten episodes of the series.



The episodes series covered different topics about the holy month of Ramadan such as, Holy Quran, wise words, lessons and advices provided to the community. Each episode included a competition by asking questions related to the series topics and the winners of ten episodes got prizes provided by the University. The draw for the grand prize, which was a Swiss watch, included the winners of the episodes plus those who participated in the last episode by providing the right answers.

The winners of the episodes were: Hanna Dawisan, Hanan Radi, Lateefa Shareeda, Amal Jamal, Aysha Fakhroo, Hanan Jamal, Ismail Sharif, Amina Alnofaie, AbdulRahman Mohamed, and Yousif AlQooti. The winner of the grand prize was Amal Jamal.



### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Let us pick up our books and our pens," I said. "They are our most powerful weapons. One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world."*

**Malala Yousafzai**

*Happy Reading!*