

For Immediate Release



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## **US welcomes 60 new USAID scholarship recipients at AUB**

Today, USAID/Lebanon Mission Director Dr. Anne Patterson visited the American University of Beirut (AUB) to welcome 60 new students under the University Scholarship Program (USP). Through USP, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) provides full undergraduate scholarships to promising public high school students from all six governorates of Lebanon. USP scholars are selected based on merit, academic performance, and financial need. They benefit from full four-year scholarship support including tuition fees, housing expenses, medical insurance, textbooks, and a monthly stipend.

The student beneficiaries, through USP, will experience rigorous academic standards and a campus environment that promotes social equality and critical thinking. All scholars will engage in civic engagement activities, job readiness workshops and community service projects.

In addition to Patterson and the Embassy delegation, the ceremony was attended by AUB President Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri, Interim Provost Dr. Muhamad Harajli, Interim Associate Provost Dr. Hala Muhtasib, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Dr. Nadia El Cheikh, Director of USAID-USP Dr. Malek Tabbal, Associate Director of USAID-USP Dr. Samar Harkouss in addition to AUB Faculty, Staff and students.

During the reception, Dr. Patterson had the chance to hear testimonials from current USP scholars about the impact of the scholarships on their lives. She highlighted that it is a great pleasure to celebrate the achievement of these young scholars, made possible through continued American investment in University Scholarship Program, and the 150th anniversary of this outstanding university serving as a beacon of light and knowledge in the Middle East... she said: we believe that education is a powerful means to alleviate poverty and advance economy... and this is why the U.S. Government has invested more than 228 million dollars since 2006 in education program and since 2010 more than 130 million dollars in scholarships in Lebanon through programs such as USP...

In his turn, AUB President Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri congratulated the scholars saying: USP is among our proudest and most impactful undertakings at a University that is well-known for dealing in

superlatives. It shows our commitment at the highest level to providing opportunities for young people who are academically promising who have great potential for leadership and a commitment to changing their communities... We can only do this through the amazing support of institutions such as United States Agency for International Development, which channels the generosity of the American people and realizes their desire to make real positive changes in the world beyond their borders.

He continued: I am very proud that in the last academic year, Interim Provost Harajli and his team of Associate Provost Dr. Hala Muhtasib, with USP's Dr. Malek Tabbal and Dr. Samar Harkouss, who also directs the indispensable University Preparatory Program, along with other directors of institutional scholarship programs and our award-winning Center for Civil Engagement and Community Service have started working together to further support and empower these institutional programs. They have started to unify, standardize and consolidate the various administrative, academic and pastoral responsibilities which they share in their different sectors...

Since 2011, nearly 220 students have been provided with access to top quality education at AUB through \$42 million in USAID investment provided through USP. This is part of the overall \$288 USAID contribution to education in Lebanon since 2006.

**ENDS**

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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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