

# Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service

Director:

Shibli, Rabih

Administrative Assistant

Bou Fadel, Mireille

Staff and Research Assistants:

Abou Farraj, Lina; Basma, Ali; Fleihan, Hala; Chahine, Karen; El-Amine, Brooke; Hajaig, Rabih; Matar, Melissa; Massalkhi, Fatme; Nehme, Ali; Kouzi, Sarah; El Baba Farah; Bou Matar, Sarah; Ziadeh, Raghida; Chaaban, Mahmoud; Maadarani, Omar; Ibrahim, Nadiya; Monzer, Samar; Kawtharani, Lama; Shammaa, Dina

Established in 2008, the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (CCECS) builds bridges between the university community, stakeholders, humanitarian agencies, policymakers, and community partners, with an overarching mission to connect developmental planning aimed at empowering the marginalized to experiential learning. CCECS has developed an operating framework in order to become more responsive to the exacerbating local needs on one end, and to be more strategic in pervading the culture of impactful engagement across all faculties on the other end. The dyad of (1) Transformative education through Civic Engagement and (2) Community Development Projects, reflects the Center's operating framework and journey through the decade.

## **1) Transformative Education through Civic Engagement**

The Center serves as a key resource for all AUB students through volunteering and internship opportunities, workshops and trainings, community engaged learning, and student-led community service projects. Weaving these components together, CCECS has developed a rigorous Civic Engagement and Leadership Program for over 500 scholarship students with the aim to equip them with the skills needed to become active change makers. The Center hosts annual events like the NGO Fair, bringing more than 100 humanitarian agencies to campus, and facilitates participation of all AUB students in leadership development forums at the local, regional and international level.

## **2) Community Development Projects**

The Center plays a leading role in identifying priorities for research and development on societal challenges, develops a vision and roadmap, and builds connections with the university community, external partners, and local stakeholders to implement high-impact multiyear interventions. More than 6,000 direct beneficiaries across Lebanon are being served annually under the Center's ongoing projects.

As a testament to the extensive community involvement of AUB students and faculty, AUB, represented by the Center, was ranked as the "most civically engaged campus" in the Middle East and North Africa by the Ma'an Alliance for Arab Universities in late 2015. In 2016, the Talloires Network awarded AUB first place in the 2016 MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship. The Digital Skills Training won the MIT Enterprise Forum 'Innovate for Refugees' Award in 2017, and the Ghata Project received the Learn by Design Honorary Award at South-by-South West (SXSW) EDU, was shortlisted for the WISE Awards for high impact projects providing solutions to 21st century education challenges, and the Fritz Redlich Human Right Award from Harvard University in 2018.