

For Immediate Release

## **AUB Education Professor elected to Academy of Sciences for the Developing World for his contributions to science education**

Beirut, Lebanon- 12/11/2010- Education Professor Saouma BouJaoude from the American University of Beirut has been elected as a fellow of the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) because of the positive impact of his research on science education and teaching in the region.

The announcement was made during the academy's general meeting in Hyderabad, India, on October 19, 2010.



Professor BouJaoude, along with new members from other institutions, will be officially inducted during the Academy's 22nd General Meeting in Morocco next year.

"[Professor] BouJaoude's research on science education with Arab world in general, and Lebanon in particular, has had impact on the training of science teachers, and on the curriculum," said the academy announcement. "He has studied the student's perception of the theory of evolution, and on the nature of science."

"As fellow, I will be able to contribute even further to the improvement of science education on a larger scale and benefit from the experiences of other members of the association to improve science education in Lebanon and the Arab World," said Professor Boujaoude, following his election.

Boujaoude, who is also the director of AUB's Center for Teaching and Learning, recently received the Excellence in the Field of Education Award from the Takreem Arab Achievement Awards, in March 2010. He also won the TWAS Regional Office's Prize for Science Education in 2008.

Italy-based TWAS, or the academy of sciences for the developing world, is an independent international organization that promotes scientific excellence and capacity in the South for science-based sustainable development. TWAS was established in 1983 by Nobel Laureate for Physics Abdus Salam of Pakistan.

Boujaoude joined AUB in 1993 after earning a PhD in education from the University of Cincinnati in Ohio. A year later, he became the director of the Science and Math Education Center at AUB, leading it for more than eight years. He also served as chair of the Department of Education from 2003 to 2009.

Boujaoude has dozens of publications under his belt and has co-authored several books and textbooks on science education and co-edited, *The World of Science Education: Arab States* (2009), which focused on science education in the Arab region.

A prolific researcher, Boujaoude's most recent studies focused on the notion of evolution in Islamic societies, as viewed by teachers and parents; making a difference in the science classroom; students' perception of various scientific topics; and turning science education into a transformative tool.

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Photo caption: Professor Saouma Boujaoude

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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 606 full-time faculty members and a student body of more than 7,500 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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