



# President's Note

As (QU) enters a new academic year, we reflect on the past year and the breadth of what we have achieved as the university advances its commitment to excellence in education, research and community service, and the development of a more cohesive campus infrastructure. We ended academic year 2013/14 on a high note of successful student academic outcomes, award-winning research, improved institutional efficiency, and recognized progress on Qatarization.

We were proud to witness the myriad of institution-wide achievements that marked the level of QU's progress and demonstrated the steadiness of the vision for our continuing development.

The Strategic Plan 2009-2013 was successfully completed and we launched Strategic Plan 2013-2016 detailing 4 areas of focus – to nurture the student experience, optimize institutional effectiveness, build international recognition, and recognize scholarly excellence.

Additionally, research at QU received a boost with an ambitious 5-year roadmap of 4 priority areas of research excellence - Energy, Environment and Resource Sustainability; Social Change and Identity; Population, Health and Wellness; and Information, Communication and Technologies (ICT).

The academic year will also be recorded in our history as the one in which QU opened its state-of-the-art research complex and 3 new research centers of excellence.

Campus expansion continued at pace during the year that included upgraded IT services, transport and road network development, and the ongoing construction of student halls of residence and the new College of Engineering, College of Pharmacy, Early Childhood Center, and central stores.

The residence halls and a planned Student Center are indicative of our resolve to ensure a vibrant student campus life by providing a scholarly and active environment to draw student engagement, motivation, and success.

Our focus on supporting students in their determination to succeed led us to implement a First-Year Experience (FYE) self-study in 2013. The self-study will serve to identify opportunities for improvements which will lead to higher levels of student learning, personal growth and persistence in achieving success.

2013/14 also saw a number of international recognitions and accreditations such as the PharmD Program by the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP), coming just 3 years after the program's establishment; and the Continuing Professional Pharmacy Development Program (CPPD) being awarded by the American Council of Pharmacy Education (ACPE), making the program the second in the Gulf to achieve this status from the Council.

In addition, the organization was accorded ISO/IEC 27001 for the ISMS in the Information Technology Services (ITS) Department, and ISO 9001:2008 for the Quality Management System at our Qatar Mobility Innovations Center (QMIC) from the British Standards Institution (BSI).

Outstanding faculty and student accomplishments also lit up the academic year: NPRP first-time Exceptional Proposal Award; State Awards for Sciences, Arts and Literature to 4 faculty; Emir Academic Excellence Award to 10 graduates; champions of National Round Microsoft Imagine Cup 2013 and 2014; 1st place GCC Hybrid Car Grand Prix 2014 (GTL category), and other accolades were all achieved this year.

We cannot however rest on our laurels as there is still much to be done and to accomplish. As you know, there is no deadline for academic development and progress. Each year we look to developing and implementing new initiatives and strategies to keep us in synchrony with students and parents' expectations and to be relevant to the needs of the labor market and the wider community.



The Strategic Plan 2013-2016, 5-year research roadmap, and infrastructure expansion plan underpin our goals and objectives in the coming years to ensure readiness for increased student numbers, institutional growth, new and emerging sectors in the job market, and new areas of research to sustain ever-changing societal challenges. These markers are aligned with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the development strategies as well as with the national development plans leading up to FIFA World Cup 2022.

QU is one of the leading partners with organizations and institutions in Qatar in contributing to the country's development. In strengthening the university academically and institutionally, we are stepping up to our responsibility as the first national institution of higher education to be an active participant on the national stage, graduating well-educated students to take up positions at QU and in the professional sectors, conducting sound community-driven research, and advancing well-designed high-school outreach programs and other stakeholder engagement initiatives.

Our efforts advance towards Qatarization in-house and in contributing to quality Qatarization by grooming a well-educated workforce in Qatar. QU continues to recruit graduates and returning scholarship students to its faculty body and administrative units. In 2014, 13 scholars who benefited from the QU scholarship program joined the organization, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience gained from their studies at top-tier universities around the world, and over 50 more are currently on their



respective graduate programs. In May, we graduated 1269 students comprising 989 women and 280 men, well-prepared to take up leadership roles in Qatar's burgeoning knowledge-based economy.

I am proud to say that our commitment was recognized with the Partnership Excellence Award for Qatarization efforts from Qatar Petroleum.

This academic year also saw us enter a phase of building an international reputation and seeking to advance our ranking among world universities. We participated in a number of strategic events to boost recognition of QU's academic and research excellence and engender international interest in our ongoing development and progress. This is an exercise of commitment and resolve which, over time, will reap rewards that will drive our ranking among the top institutions in the world.

As our plans continue to fall into place, we can expect another busy and productive year as we settle in new students, develop more programs, advance our research priorities, step up our efficiency, and guide the completion of several expansion works. We are supported in these efforts by a host of partners in government, industry, business, academia, and civil society and are deeply appreciative of their confidence in our plans and progress.

President Professor  
Sheikha Abdulla Al-Misnad

