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**Texas A&M at Qatar and Maersk Oil Qatar seek nominations for the fourth annual STEM Educator of the Year contest**

Nominations are open for the fourth annual STEM Educator of the Year award competition for Qatar's top teacher in math and science, announced Texas A&M University at Qatar and Maersk Oil Qatar who sponsor the contest.

The STEM Educator of the Year award is part of the Dhia: Engineering Leaders program, a partnership between Texas A&M at Qatar and Maersk Oil Qatar that supports the development of Qatar's knowledge-based economy through outreach programs designed to inspire young people in Qatar to take up science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in school and university. STEM education in primary, preparatory and secondary schools is central to these efforts, and the STEM Educator of the Year award recognizes outstanding educators whose work contributes to exceptional STEM education in Qatar.

The STEM Educator of the Year award commends the commitment of teachers and the positive impact they are having on young people in Qatar. This initiative encourages educators to instruct students in innovative ways and represents direct efforts to support Qatar's human and social development, which will drive the country's economic and environmental development through engineers and scientists.

Eligible candidates for the award are teachers of STEM disciplines in independent, private and international primary, preparatory and high schools in Qatar. Nominees must have been employed by their nominating school for at least one full academic year and be currently employed by the nominating school. Nominations are due 1 April at [www.stem.qa](http://www.stem.qa).

The 2016 STEM Educator of the Year was Hessa Al-Shammari, a biology teacher at Roda Bint Mohammed Secondary School for Girls. Al-Shammari, who is the first Qatari to be named STEM Educator of the Year, was described by her colleagues as an ambitious and proven problem solver who works well under pressure, and an

energetic and enthusiastic teacher committed to her profession. She was praised in particular for her use of technology in the classroom, which Al-Shammari said helps to motivate her students and increase the effectiveness of her teaching, making biology a more appealing and enjoyable subject to learn.

Previous winners were Wasan Yousif Muhsin Al-Ani, a chemistry teacher at Amna bint Wahab Secondary School for Girls, who was named the 2015 Engineering Leaders STEM Educator of the Year, and Faiza Hassan Musa, a chemistry teacher at Al Bayan Educational Complex for Girls, who won the inaugural award in 2014.

Dr. César O. Malavé, dean of Texas A&M at Qatar, said, “Texas A&M at Qatar graduates the engineering leaders Qatar needs to drive its future growth and development. But producing outstanding engineers starts well before students ever enroll in our engineering programs. It starts when these future engineers are still in school, and the STEM Educator of the Year award recognizes those teachers who are preparing young people to enter universities, develop into this country’s future leaders and build Qatar’s technical workforce. We thank these teachers for their efforts, as well as our partner, Maersk Oil Qatar, for its visionary leadership in supporting Qatar’s children and its future.”

A selection committee will review nomination packets and choose the winning teacher, who will receive a cash prize of 20,000 Qatari riyals. Full details about the competition are available at [www.stem.qa](http://www.stem.qa).

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#### About Texas A&M University at Qatar

Texas A&M University, recognized as having one of the premier engineering programs in the world, has offered undergraduate degrees in chemical engineering, electrical and computer engineering, mechanical engineering and petroleum engineering at Qatar Foundation’s Education City campus since 2003, and graduate degrees in chemical engineering since fall 2011. Texas A&M at Qatar has awarded more than 750 degrees since 2007. In addition to engineering courses, Texas A&M at Qatar provides classes in science, mathematics, liberal arts and the humanities. All four of the engineering programs offered at Texas A&M at Qatar are accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET. The curricula offered at Texas A&M at Qatar are materially the same as those offered at the main campus in College Station, Texas, and the courses in Doha are taught in English in a co-educational setting. The reputation for excellence is the same, as is the commitment to equip engineers to lead the next generation of engineering advancement. Faculty from around the world are attracted to Texas A&M at Qatar to provide this educational experience and to participate in research activities now valued at more than \$236.4 million, and that address issues important to the State of Qatar. Visit [www.qatar.tamu.edu](http://www.qatar.tamu.edu).