

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of LAU,

Once again, I am pleased to bring to you my annual report detailing the Lebanese American University's (LAU) accomplishments over the preceding academic year, namely 2016-2017. Lebanon's internal circumstances and the regional environment are admittedly challenging. Despite this, the university that we so cherish persists in daring forward, achieving success upon success with the extraordinary support of our extended community.

Such ability to maintain steady progress despite economic and political uncertainties relies in large part on careful strategic planning, undergirded by a culture of continual self-assessment. Building on the accomplishments of the recently completed Second Strategic Plan (SPII), the university has embarked on its successor, the Third Strategic Plan (SPIII), which will guide its internal and external growth until 2022. Adopted nearly simultaneously with a new Integrated Strategic Plan for LAU's Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine and LAU Medical Center-Rizk Hospital, SPIII is centered around increasing intellectual capital, fostering pedagogical innovation, and transforming LAU into a university without borders. Both plans are set to reinforce the university's local and regional leadership while positioning it as a globally renowned institution of higher learning and research.

In a world where technological changes are occurring at breakneck speed, we are continually assessing our pedagogical methods through a mentorship approach, while introducing new courses and degrees aimed at preparing our students for the needs of the rapidly evolving job market.

Our insistence on marrying the highest quality of instruction with cutting-edge scholarship was reflected this year in the creation of a first-of-its-kind Center for Innovation, complementing innovative pedagogy with groundbreaking projects conducted by our faculty in conjunction with the private and public sectors. We also entered into an agreement with the National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS), guaranteeing LAU faculty access to significant research funding from the Lebanese government through a matching grant scheme. And I am happy to report that the Board of Trustees has approved the establishment of several new master's degree programs, further strengthening our research capacity.

At the core of LAU's mission stands the commitment to educating the whole person — instilling in our students not just factual knowledge but an ethical way of being in this world and leading change. This year we reinforced this commitment by adopting a student Code of Conduct, and redoubling our efforts in serving the community in which we live. Among countless other examples of community service by our faculty, students and staff, student volunteers trained more than 5,000 middle- and high-school students in diplomacy, peace-building and leadership skills, through LAU's Model UN, Model Arab League and Model European Union simulations in Lebanon. As our programs expand, so do the facilities housing the university's various activities. In Byblos, the Engineering Labs have been completed, and the building of the new campus library and administrative complex is well on its way to completion. On both campuses, existing infrastructure was revamped to cater to our academic advances while introducing green technologies, both in terms of information technology and physical infrastructure, to minimize LAU's carbon footprint and contribute to improving Lebanon's overall environment.



As LAU's standing as a pre-eminent institution of higher learning in Lebanon and the region continues to rise, we are making every effort to ensure that all qualified youth are afforded the opportunity to pursue an education within the university's walls, regardless of financial means. To that end, this past year we disbursed over \$30 million in financial aid. These and other costs impose significant burdens on the LAU operating budget, which we are, thankfully, able to meet through the invaluable support of our donors. With this in mind, I take this opportunity to announce that on September 1, 2017 the Board of Trustees approved the launch of the next capital fundraising campaign, with the goal of raising \$110 million in order to lessen our dependence on tuition fees and preserve the university's forward-moving momentum.

I invite you now to immerse yourselves in the pages that follow, and to revel in the accomplishments of our students, faculty and staff over the past academic year. They are a testament to essential and unflagging contributions to our great institution.

Gratefully Yours,

Joseph G. Jabbara, Ph.D.
President
Lebanese American University