

***Director of LERC Ms. Guita Hourani successfully completes her fellowship under the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) program***

May 2010, Syracuse University, Syracuse, USA

Following her selection to participate in the Civic Education and Leadership Fellowship (CELFF) at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs of Syracuse University, New York, USA, Ms. Hourani returned to resume her duties as the Director of LERC.

Ms. Hourani was delighted to have participated in the program which is part of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) program of the State Department. The aim of the program is for the participants “to promote civic engagement in their home countries via improved pedagogy, teacher preparation, and curriculum development for related social science departments.”

In describing her experience with the program, Ms. Hourani stated that “the program provided us with the opportunity to discuss pedagogical, methodological, and curriculum development issues related to our countries, universities, and faculties. It gave us the chance to learn from veteran professors about what has been coined as ‘active learning’, which is a pedagogical methodology aiming at combining instruction with practice.” Syracuse University has developed a model built around four principles: “client-centered work in natural settings, task design that is attentive to the motivational properties of the active learning stimulus, learning as social participation, and community service learning.”



Syracuse University Certificate Awarded to Ms. G. Hourani (May 2010)

In describing her time at Syracuse, Ms. Hourani stated that “what was wonderful to experience at Syracuse University was the intellectual caliber of the professors especially of Maxwell School, as well as the participation and innovation of the students.”

In asking her about whether she encourages other professors to participate in the program, Ms. Hourani replied “I certainly encourage other professors to benefit from such an opportunity which provides the opportunity to review one’s own knowledge, exchange learning experience, and rejuvenate one’s approach to classroom teaching.”



Colleagues at Syracuse University: (from left-right) A. Jabereen, K. Hassan, M. Raymong, S. Zoghaib, G. Hourani, A. El Sheikh, G. Al Attar, and S. Rayan, Syracuse, USA (2010).