



EXPERT TALK

THE MILLENNIAL CAMPUS EXPERIENCE

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Professional expertise and a well-rounded education are indispensable in nurturing college students in this new era. Lauralee Kilgour, Dean of Student Affairs at College of the North Atlantic- Qatar, speaks on taking education beyond the walls of a conventional classroom and creating a path to new-age learning.

Three-minutes of inspiration while on a ski lift in the Canadian Rockies is all it took Lauralee Kilgour to redirect her career path from business to the development of youth and she has been passionate about it ever since. Having been in the education sector for much of her professional life, Lauralee believes in the value of learning outside the classroom. She is translating this into her mission as Dean of Student Affairs by caretaking the students' diverse cultural, physical, professional and social experiences and empowering students to achieve their full potential. "The learning that goes on within the classroom is essential; however, when a student takes advantage of campus experiences available outside the classroom, that's when a student's education becomes immensely enriched," she says.

Though each is distinct, the varied units within Student Affairs at CNA-Q share the common goal of celebrating student success through a vibrant campus life. Together, these units' foster qualities of campus life that help make college education richer, fuller, and more rewarding. Lauralee works closely with her staff members who design career preparation programs, sport and wellness programs, cultural and humanitarian activities, leadership and student governance, alumni connections, and counseling and career services. The Student Life staff is responsible for leadership development, cultural activities, events, charities and clubs while alumni staff focus on keeping graduates connected through ongoing professional development, job opportunities and social networking. The active Recreation, Sport and Wellness staff offers programs using state-of-the-art equipment and wellness expertise.



Members of the Counseling staff work with students to ensure their personal and academic success while the Career Services Coordinator provides students and graduates with current job preparation and opportunities as well as pathways for university articulation around the globe. "As Dean, I have the privilege of working with these committed professionals but also with some of the most interesting and talented youth in the Qatar community," says Lauralee.

There are more than 20 active clubs and sports teams at CNA-Q. Students can easily find their niche in the auto racing, equestrian, debate, photography, fashion, library and music clubs or by becoming a member of one of the CNA-Q Falcon teams such as cricket, power lifting, soccer, archery, rugby, basketball, volleyball, billiards, chess, or swimming. And when it's time to just chill out, students can relax in the new students' lounge, the Falcon's Nest. If a student is motivated by becoming a peer

tutor, a student assistant, an ambassador, a member of the student advisory board, or a member of the Student Representative Council, the Student Affairs Department is ready to enable that.

In terms of student culture, CNA-Q has an incredibly interesting student population. Students from over 40 nationalities bring their diverse and rich experiences to the campus. At CNA-Q, it's a primary goal to create a community of respect and appreciation. To encourage this, the College hosts not only a Respect Campaign but also an annual Global Village, where students and staff come together in a colourful celebration of multiculturalism.

Student artistic development is celebrated through an annual art and photography exhibition that is complemented by ArtMart, an online art shopping experience where customers may purchase the work of CNA-Q photographers, and have their proceeds contribute to a student artistic achievement award. Student Affairs also offers student



awards for sport achievement and leadership development while the Student Representative Council offers financial awards to students in need of assistance.

The Student Affairs Department is a catalyst for bridging challenges to solutions. The college places great importance on setting the right environment for students to feel secure. "CNA-Q's dedicated faculty and staff are partners with students in their learning and they make themselves available to help students manage their college life, whether selecting courses, finding the right internship, interviewing for a job, connecting with friends, or solving life's big questions," she says.

To Lauralee, her success lies in the success of students. She emphasizes that "Student Affairs is dedicated to making each student's educational journey a success by

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providing a supportive, safe and vibrant campus. Success is not only about getting good grades; equally important are the experiences and lifelong friendships that students gain through social, leadership,

athletic, and cultural activities. All these threads make up the fabric of life at CNA-Q and weaving them together creates a tapestry that is both challenging and exciting."