**Hilal Zaid**

**Dr. Hilal Zaid's educational initiatives:**

1. **Activities within the framework of the Al-Qasemi College and its institutions**
   1. 2017 – the present: Head of the Educational Research Center

The Center focuses on conducting research studies in the educational and social fields. Its primary goal is to increase the amount of research conducted at the college, so that it will become a leading research body among teacher-training colleges in Israel.

The aims of the Al-Qasemi Educational Research Center and its operating strategies:

* To encourage lecturers to conduct research and publish articles in international journals, by having senior researchers assist younger ones, and by covering the costs of editing and publishing the articles.
* To implement the culture of research at Al-Qasemi college with the aim of raising the level of the ranking of the college, the researchers, and the quality of the lecturers' teaching by integrating both their own research and recent global studies into their courses.
* To expose the college students to professional academic activity by publicizing lecturers' findings at seminars and conventions.
* To hold peer meetings for lecturers and researchers at the college to encourage cooperation between various researchers, and to urge others to conduct research.
  1. October 2017 – present   
     As head of the Department of Science Education until September 2017, and as head of the Research Center from September 2017, I submitted a proposal for the Ministry of Science and Technology's tender of an allocation of one million Shekel for a science mentoring project. We won the bid. As part of this project, 100 scholarships of 9000 NIS each will be distributed to each college student who meets the demands. The students will serve as mentors for groups of students in the high schools in the area. We see this project as an opportunity to convey the values of our college to schools which usually do not come into contact with the college. (Practicum usually takes place in elementary schools.) The students will receive special training which will explain the importance of the project over and above just helping school students in subjects they find difficult. The school students privileged to take part in the project will come from families with limited income. As such, we will constitute a substitute for the expensive private lessons that wealthy students receive. In addition, college students will be accepted to the project principally on the basis of their socio-economic status, and we will thus be helping in making academic studies accessible to students from poor families.
  2. Course and curriculum development
     + Development of about 5 syllabuses for courses in the B.Ed. science program, some of which did not exist at all before I joined the department staff. For example:
       1. A course in teaching science using mini-projects — research and development. It must be emphasized that, as far as I know, this course does not exist elsewhere.
       2. A course in medicinal plants.
     + Development of the course Alternative Medicine in Islam for students of alternative medicine at the Al-Qasemi College of Engineering and Science.
     + Development and preparation of about 20 syllabuses in the B.Sc. program of biotechnology as part of the establishment of the college in Baqa al-Gharbiyye.
     + Coordination and submission of a B.Sc. program in biotechnology:  
       I served as coordinator, planner, head, and member of the steering committee to submit the curriculum for the biotechnology B.Sc. program to the Council for Higher Education.  
       The program was first submitted by researchers at the college's Research Center before I joined the college staff. After I joined the college as a researcher at the Center, and following the letter of comments from the Council of Higher Education, the program was transferred to me. The project was subject to significant changes both in terms of the content and in terms of the lecturing staff. In January 2012, the project returned to us for amendments. Again, I made the required changes and the project was resent to the Council and was finally approved at the beginning of 2014.
     + 2013-2017: In my capacity as head of the Science Education Department, I implemented the necessary amendments to the science education program according to the demands of the Council, so that it would receive final approval and be accepted in the academic year 2015/2016. It should be noted that I agreed to take on the position of Head of the Science Education Department despite it being a new department and the challenge of receiving the Council of Higher Education's final approval that I undertook in my first year as head of the department.
     + 2014: Preparation of laboratory booklets for the biochemistry course of Science Education B.Sc. students.
  3. January 2014 – present: Head of the staff responsible for having the college accredited as a "green" college.  
     The college received the accreditation in January 2017. As part of the project, I planned and supervised various "green" activities, such as:
     + Coordination of the existing course given to college students who were not science majors. The course emphasized the value of preserving the environment, and how to convey this value to school students. As part of the project the college students ran "green" activities in local schools.
     + Members of the "green" campus committee instructed local schools how to become "green" schools and helped them submit their applications to the Ministry of Environmental Protection.
     + Establishing cooperation with similar bodies in the area, such as the Alexander River Organization for Environmental Education.

It should be noted that the Al-Qasemi College is the first Arab academic institution in Israel that has received accreditation as a "green" campus. The Green Campus Committee continues to act, both in the college and in schools, to promote the value of preserving the environment by means of a practicum course in which all the college students partake. We believe that in this way the value of conservation will be conveyed to the general public in the area by the teachers, the college students, and the school students.

* 1. 2014 – 2016: Member of steering committee of Qstart-PresenTense, Israel (an entrepreneurship accelerator).
  2. 2013 – present: Member of the College Academic Council.
  3. 2013 – 2014: Head of the team for cooperation with the Hillel Jaffe Hospital for the purpose of developing curricula in para-medical subjects.
  4. 2012 – 2013: Head of the assessment staff at the Al-Qasemi College of Engineering and Science.
  5. 2011 – 2012: Head of the steering committee to operate Al-Qasemi laboratories for teaching according to the Belmonte method.
  6. 2011 – 2012: Head of the assessment staff for the academic centers at the college.
  7. May 2011: Organization of an international convention – "Transcending from the Roots." I coordinated the steering committees and the running of the convention. The convention took place at the Al-Qasemi College and many Israeli institutions participated, including hospitals and universities, the Technion, and the Middle East Cancer Consortium. Researchers from Israel and abroad took part in the convention, which included three parallel sessions throughout the day.
  8. Cooperation with researchers from abroad (Europe, Canada, USA, India, Arab countries) and from Israel.
  9. 2010 – 2014: Member of the steering committee for planning the laboratories in the new building of the Baqa college.
  10. 2010 – 2013: Appearances in interviews in the media (channels 10, 2, 33, radio, Arabic and Hebrew newspapers), in which I represented the college and the Research Center.

1. **Voluntary Activities outside the college:**
   1. 2011 – present: Lectures to school students in Baqa al-Gharbiyyeand in Jath Village.
   2. Running laboratories and conducting experiments for school students in Baqa and Jath.
   3. 2011 – present: Assessing projects and posters of high-school students at the annual "Environmental Researchers" convention at the Davidson Institute of Science Education.
   4. Mentor for high-school students writing theses at 5-point Bagrut level. The students (usually two each year) team up with one of my research students or research assistants in my laboratory for a year, and conduct a research project which is submitted to the Ministry of Education for assessment.
   5. Assisting schools in Baqa to submit applications for accreditation as "green" schools.
2. **Additional Positions:**2016 – 2017: Head of the Biology M.Sc. program committee, The Arab American University.

2016 – 2017: Faculty board member, The Arab American University.

2015 – 2016: Member of the Research and Social Committee; member of the Research Ethics Committee; head of the Scientific Committee, The Arab American University.

2015 – 2016: Member of the scientific conference committee for “The 4th Conference of Biotechnology Research and Application in Palestine.”