



**Association of International Education Administrators**  
*Leaders in International Higher Education*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: AIEA Secretariat  
[secretariat@aieaworld.org](mailto:secretariat@aieaworld.org)  
+1 (919) 893-4980  
[www.aieaworld.org](http://www.aieaworld.org)

**Dr. Abeer Aldoghaither is Awarded AIEA's 2024 Award for Presidential Leadership in Comprehensive Internationalization**

Washington D.C. (February 20, 2024)— The Award for Presidential Leadership in Comprehensive Internationalization is a new and prestigious accolade designed to recognize and honor university presidents who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in advancing internationalization within their respective institutions. The award acknowledges university leaders who have exemplified leadership in multiple facets of comprehensive internationalization and honors presidents of higher education institutions who have championed this mission, recognizing their exceptional success in promoting global engagement within their institutions and at the highest levels.

This award was developed by the AIEA Presidential Ambassadors Council – a group of current and former presidents of higher education institutions, and we are pleased to announce the inaugural recipient is Dr. Abeer Aldoghaither, President of Dar Al-Hekma University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

In a rapidly evolving landscape of higher education, Dr. Aldoghaither has steered Dar Al-Hekma towards heights of excellence. Her leadership is emblematic of unwavering commitment to international standards and a relentless pursuit of quality in education. The university's Strategic Plan 2021-2026, under her astute guidance, has not only positioned Dar Al-Hekma as a regional and international benchmark, but has also propelled it to the forefront of global recognition.

At the heart of this journey lies a commitment to internationalization that encompasses every facet of Dar Al-Hekma University. Dr. Aldoghaither's visionary approach has fostered collaborations with renowned institutions globally, ensuring that students receive an education aligned with international standards. The university's benchmarking initiatives, collaborative curriculum development, and strategic alliances with institutions like the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley, and many others underscore her dedication to providing students with a truly global perspective.



**Association of International Education Administrators**  
*Leaders in International Higher Education*

The establishment of the e-Learning Centre and initiatives like Flexible Learning Pathways bear testament to Dr. Aldoghaither's commitment to staying at the forefront of educational innovation.

Under Dr. Aldoghaither's leadership, the university has achieved significant milestones in accreditation. This commitment to quality assurance reflects not only the university's dedication to meeting international standards, but also its desire to produce graduates ready to excel on the global stage.

Beyond academics, Dr. Aldoghaither has fostered a campus culture that embraces inclusivity, ensuring that the university's services and facilities are accessible to all, creating a vibrant and diverse environment. Her efforts to encourage international faculty, internships abroad, and community service on a global scale reflect a holistic approach to internationalization that extends far beyond the classroom.

Dr. Abeer Aldoghaither's leadership has not only elevated Dar Al-Hekma University's standing, but has also set a benchmark for institutions striving for excellence in higher education. AIEA Executive Director Dr. Darla K. Deardorff remarked, "Today, we honor Dr. Abeer Aldoghaither for her visionary leadership and unwavering dedication to the internationalization of Dar Al-Hekma University. Her leadership serves as an exemplary model for others in similar leadership positions at universities around the world."

AIEA Congratulates the President of Dar Al-Hekma University, Dr. Abeer Aldoghaither as the recipient of the inaugural Award for Presidential Leadership in Comprehensive Internationalization.

*About AIEA:*

**The Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA)** is a member organization that equips leaders to shape the future of higher education in a global context.



**Association of International Education Administrators**  
*Leaders in International Higher Education*

AIEA advances strategic transformational approaches to internationalization of higher education; empowers those who lead such efforts; convenes global conversation on key issues; and partners with other organizations around the world to develop sustainable, forward-looking perspectives.