



**Ghassan Aouad**

Chancellor of Abu Dhabi University, Past President ...

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Dear Colleagues and Friends

I would like to inform you that the Board of Directors at **Abu Dhabi University** has approved the renaming of the Smart Learning Center to the Center for Faculty Development and Learning Innovation, with the aim of enhancing teaching and learning competencies at Abu Dhabi University and our sister college, **Liwa College**.

This change reflects our commitment to advancing faculty development and enhancing teaching and learning across disciplines. The Center will continue to support our efforts with an expanded focus on innovation in pedagogy, professional growth, and resources tailored to teaching needs.

During the academic year 2023-2024, a total of 18 interactive workshops were held, encompassing various categories in teaching and learning, conducted face-to-face, online, or in hybrid formats. Faculty and staff from both ADU and LC participated, with 556 attending at least one of our sessions throughout the current academic year. Additionally, 122 faculty members attended more than six sessions.

Examples of topics covered include: the art and science of leadership, utilizing the digitalization system in ADU, using AI to create content and provide feedback, creating an inviting classroom environment, an introduction to Scite, NodeBook & ChatGPT workshops, applying reflective and metacognitive strategies in STEM education, AhaSlides: product updates workshop, assessment and grade distribution, grade inflation: causes, consequences, and solutions in higher education, constructive alignment (CA) and closing the loop, and assessments, and ChatGPT: challenges and opportunities.

The Center also conducted two Professional Development Days: the Fall Faculty Professional Development Day focused on "Faculty-Student Mentoring: Effective Mentoring Can Be Learned, Not Taught," and the Spring Faculty Professional Development Day centered on "Pedagogical Approaches and Assessment Practices."

The Center also organized the International Conference on Education "Innovations in Teaching & Learning: Pioneering Education's Future" (ADU\_ICEDU2024) with the theme "Innovations in Teaching & Learning: Charting Higher Education's Path Forward," which was held on October 2, 2024.

The Center celebrated Teachers' International Day by distributing giveaways to all faculty members.

In conclusion, the Center's Professional Development Programs stand as a testament to our commitment to academic excellence and continuous improvement. The Center remains dedicated to advancing pedagogical innovation and ensuring faculty readiness for the challenges of tomorrow's educational landscape. Looking to the future, the Center remains steadfast in its pursuit of offering dynamic and transformative opportunities for the academic community.

The Center is led by my esteemed colleague, Dr. **Mohammad Fteiha**, Director of our Al Ain Campus.

**Hamad Odhabi Professor Barry O'Mahony Prof. Mohamed Dhiaf Hany EL KADI Bassam Mura, MBA Noor Al Masri Khulud Abdallah**



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