

## News Release

*For Release:* Feb. 10, 2015

*Contact:* Kristal Griffith

*Email:* [kgriffith@naspa.org](mailto:kgriffith@naspa.org)

*Phone:* (202) 265-7500 ext. 1177



**NASPA**<sup>™</sup>

Student Affairs Administrators  
in Higher Education

### 9<sup>th</sup> Annual MENASA NASPA Conference at Qatar University *“Bridging the Gap: Paving the way for Student Success” was conference theme*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The 9th Annual MENASA NASPA Conference was held Feb. 2-5, 2015 at Qatar University for student affairs professionals under the theme of “Bridging the Gap: Paving the way for student success.” The conference was hosted this year by the student affairs sector in Qatar University in association with NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. The conference was the official launch of the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia regional NASPA area (MENASA).

During his speech at the opening ceremony, Abdulla Al-Yafei, associate vice president for student life and services at Qatar University, pointed to the importance of mutual communications between professionals working in the field of student affairs in order to discuss common concerns and develop new strategies and best practices.

Al-Yafei also referred to this year’s conference theme and pointed out that it highlights the fact that higher education professionals share a common goal, which is students’ success and that it can be considered one of the key factors in motivating faculty members, administrators, staff and the community as a whole to increase their efforts and improve the education they provide to students, which is the cornerstone of their profession.

The conference shed new light on the contribution and partnerships between different collaborators in the educational community to help students succeed, pointing out that the MENASA area (Middle East, North Africa and South Asia) has seen tremendous developments during the last century in the number of students enrolling in university programs and the quality of these programs and services, which has led to an increase in the desire to meet international standards for student affairs.

The conference events include nearly 50 workshops spread over eight concurrent sessions blocks including presentations, workshops and poster presentations from many of the participating universities and higher education institutions.

-30-

*NASPA is the leading association for the advancement, health, and sustainability of the student affairs profession. Our work provides high-quality professional development, advocacy, and research for 14,000 members in all 50 states, 25 countries, and 8 U.S. territories.*