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Annenberg Learner and Qatar Foundation International Partner to Create “Teaching Arabic” Collection to Address Growing Needs of Educators and Communities Across the United States

WASHINGTON, December 16, 2016 — Today Annenberg Learner and Qatar Foundation International (QFI) announced the creation of the [Teaching Arabic in the United States collection](#), a free online resource meant to advance best practices in Arabic language instruction and support the professional development of Arabic language teachers in K-12 classrooms across the U.S. The announcement coincides with UNESCO’s annual celebration of World Arabic Language Day, as well as growing demand for Arabic language instruction and improved cross-cultural understanding between Arab and non-Arab communities in American schools.

“The Teaching Arabic collection is a valuable addition to our *Teaching Foreign Languages K-12 Library*,” said Michele McLeod, program officer of Annenberg Learner. “It will introduce Arabic teachers to proven practices of language instruction and will also enlighten teachers of other languages on aspects of Arabic, such as teaching dialects, that will be helpful for their instruction. We are delighted to partner with Qatar Foundation International in bringing this important resource to language teachers.”

Arabic is the fifth-most spoken language in the world and is among the fastest growing non-English languages in the U.S., according to recent census data. In fact, a recent QFI survey of over 200 U.S. public and charter schools indicated that most K-12 Arabic language programs are new, with more than two-thirds of programs being launched in 2007 or later. The Teaching Arabic collection, which includes seven classroom programs from elementary through high school, seeks to address many of the nascent challenges in this emerging area of language instruction.

“One of the greatest challenges facing Arabic teachers is developing student-centered classrooms,” said QFI Executive Director Maggie Mitchell Salem. “We strive to equip educators with the tools that help them create effective language classes to enhance critical thinking, problem-solving, and cultural competence, while broadening career options for students. We are proud to partner with Annenberg Learner to provide quality resources and best practices that help address this very real need.”

Arabic teachers, many of whom are native speakers, can use the video resources to learn the most effective practices for teaching Arabic to non-native speakers that align with the World Readiness Standards for Learning Languages created by the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) along with a group of language teaching professional organizations. The classroom videos feature teachers from across the country modeling interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication. Students use Arabic for informal interactions and to learn content from other discipline areas. A website and guide accompany the videos, providing a complete professional development experience.

The Teaching Arabic collection is funded by QFI and Annenberg Learner and was produced by WGBH Boston in cooperation with the ACTFL. The collection is available for free via the [Annenberg Learner website](#) or [QFI's open education resource site, Al-Masdar](#). The videos are also available for purchase in DVD format for \$50. Please call 1-800-LEARNER for further sales information.

1001 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 504, Washington, DC 20036



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Contact:

Stacie Pierpoint / Annenberg Learner
Senior Coordinator, Marketing and Communications
202-735-2958 | 202-277-6582
spierpoint@learner.org

Sara Al-Hemaidi / Qatar Foundation International
QFI Communications Manager +1 571-314-4511 | +1 202-609-7918
salhemaidi@qfi.org

About Qatar Foundation International

Qatar Foundation International (QFI), LLC, is a U.S.-based member of Qatar Foundation (QF). QFI operates as both a grant-making organization and a convener of thought leaders on issues related to global and international education, open education and education technologies as they intersect with the three core QFI programmatic areas: Arabic language and Arab culture, STE{A}M (STEM plus the Arts), and Youth Engagement.

QFI inspires meaningful connections to the Arab world by creating a global community of diverse learners and educators and connecting them through effective and collaborative learning environments — inside and outside the classroom.

Through our activities, QFI is committed to providing K-12 students in Qatar, the Americas, and the United Kingdom (U.K.) with the intellectual, communicative, and cultural competencies that will enable them to be engaged global citizens.

Learn more at qfi.org

About Annenberg Learner

Annenberg Learner is the education division of the Annenberg Foundation, created to “Advance Excellent Teaching in American Schools.” For more than three decades, Annenberg Learner has pursued this mission by funding and distributing multimedia resources, including video, print, and web materials, for the professional development of teachers (K-12 and college levels). These resources in all discipline areas help teachers to stay up-to-date in their fields and to use current learning research in their classrooms. More than 100 multimedia courses and workshops are streamed free through www.learner.org. Annenberg Learner partners with leading educational video producers and like-minded organizations (like QFI) to create valuable learning experiences for K-12 educators.

As the name Annenberg Learner implies, its focus is on the teacher, as well as the student, as a learner. In fact, all adults who are lifelong learners have enjoyed and benefited from using Annenberg Learner resources.

Learn more at Learner.org



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Teachers and schools featured in the Teaching Arabic collection

Khamael Alaloom
“People Who Help Us” Grade 1
William Ford Elementary School
14749 Alber St, Dearborn, MI 48126

Eric Bartolotti
“Making Sales Calls” Grades 9, 11
Watertown High School
50 Columbia St., Watertown, MA 02472

Wael Fawzy
“Comparing the Weather” Grade 6
LaSalle II Magnet School
1148 N Honore St., Chicago, IL 60622

Belal Joundeya
“Making Plans” Grades 9-12
Lincoln High School
1600 SW Salmon St.
Portland, OR 97205

Rita Lahoud
“Vegetables We Like” Grade 2
P.S. 261 Philip Livingston School
314 Pacific St., Brooklyn, NY 11201

Manar Mayala
“A Place I Call Home” Grades 9 & 10
Granada Hills Charter High School
10535 Zelzah Ave.
Granada Hills, CA 91344

Katie Quackenbush
“How We Spend Our Free Time” Grade 8
Boston Latin Academy
205 Townsend St., Boston, MA 02121

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