

# EduVision: School of Education NEWSLETTER



## Welcome to the First Edition of the M.Ed. Newsletter!

### Dear Educators,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the **Master of Education (M.Ed.) Newsletter**. This publication serves as a platform to share key updates, initiatives, and developments within the School of Education.

As we strive to advance inclusive and innovative learning practices, I encourage you to explore the insights and updates featured in this edition. Your commitment and dedication are essential to our collective efforts in shaping the future of education.

Thank you for your continued contributions to our shared mission of inspiring, educating, and transforming.

**Nadera Alborno, Ed.D.**  
**Dean, School of Education**

## Announcements:

### New M.Ed. Concentration Special & Inclusive Education

The School of Education is excited to announce a new concentration with three innovative courses in Special & Inclusive Education. These courses equip educators with the expertise and strategies to create supportive and inclusive learning environments.



### New Courses:

- **EDSI 603 – Literacy Instruction for Students with Disabilities.**
- **EDSI 605 – Instructional Methods & Assessments for Students with Disabilities.**
- **EDSI 630 – Special and Inclusive Education Practicum.**

[CLICK FOR M.ED. COURSE LIST](#)



## President in Residence: Strengthening Educational Connections



The School of Education was honored to host AUD **President Dr. Kyle Long** during three key events, where he shared valuable insights and reinforced AUD's commitment to educational excellence.

In the Educational Research class, President Long inspired M.Ed. candidates with motivating insights, encouraging them as they advance in their academic and professional journeys.

At the inaugural **American School Principals Network**, he welcomed school leaders and facilitated discussions on achievements, challenges, and future collaborations, fostering a stronger educational community.

During the **M.Ed. Alumni Advisory Council's second meeting**, **President Dr. Long** outlined AUD's future vision and engaged alumni in strategic planning, with working groups set to achieve key objectives by January 31, 2025. These engagements highlight AUD's dedication to empowering educators and strengthening partnerships within the education sector.



## ME Summit: Social Inclusion for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

From **November 20–22, 2024**, the **Middle East Summit on Social Inclusion of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities** brought together educators, researchers, and advocates to explore strategies for enhancing inclusion across educational and social settings. Hosted by the **American University in Dubai (AUD)** in collaboration with the **British University in Dubai (BUiD)**.

[Click for the Summit Video](#) 

To be continued 



## ME Summit: Social Inclusion for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities



The summit served as a dynamic platform to address challenges and opportunities in fostering inclusion, drawing participation from educators, policymakers, and community stakeholders.

The event featured a diverse lineup of speakers from across the Middle East, including representatives from **Oman, Bahrain, Egypt, Qatar, and the UAE**, each bringing unique insights and perspectives on inclusion in their respective contexts. Interactive workshops, panel discussions, and a poster competition focused on key themes such as education, employment, and community integration, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange.



A major highlight was the launch of a special issue in **the International Journal of Developmental Disabilities (IJDD)**, co-edited by **Prof. Eman Gaad, the Dean of the Faculty of Education at the British University in Dubai (BUiD) and Dr. Nadera Alborno**. This special issue showcases pioneering research, including a paper co-authored by **Dr. Alborno and M.Ed. Alumna Ghina Kalaji '21**, reflecting the School of Education's commitment to advancing inclusive education in the region. Throughout the summit, participants engaged in meaningful dialogue, sharing best practices and innovative solutions to support individuals with developmental disabilities in educational and social settings. The event also provided valuable networking opportunities, encouraging cross-border collaborations to drive actionable change. This landmark event underscores AUD's dedication to promoting inclusivity, fostering professional development, and driving rigorous research that contributes to a more accessible and equitable society. AUD looks forward to continuing its efforts in shaping inclusive educational policies and fostering regional cooperation to enhance opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities.

## Collaboration with Adelphi University, New York Inclusion and Accessibility in Higher Education

The opening day of the Middle East Summit: Social Inclusion of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities featured two transformative workshops led by internationally acclaimed educators from **Adelphi University, New York, USA, Dr. Stephen Shore and Dr. Pavan John Antony**, both esteemed Professors of Special Education.

### Workshop 1: Transitioning to Higher Education

Dr. Stephen Shore, shared insights from his lived experience as an autistic individual, guiding participants on creating effective transition plans for students with autism and other disabilities. This session equipped attendees with tools to support both academic and social success.

[Click to watch Workshop1](#)

### Workshop 2: Accessible College Classrooms for All Learners

Dr. Antony focused on practical strategies for overcoming accessibility barriers in college



classrooms. The session included real-world examples and interactive discussion, inspiring educators to reimagine inclusive learning environments. [Click to watch Workshop2](#)

These workshops highlight AUD's commitment to fostering inclusive excellence in higher education. We thank Dr. Shore and Dr. Antony for sharing their expertise and look forward to continued collaboration in this essential area.

## AUD-BUID Poster Competition



The final day of the Middle East Summit on Social Inclusion of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities was marked by a **proud achievement for the American University in Dubai (AUD)**. Our talented M.Ed. alumna, **Krystel Azzam '23**, secured **first place in the poster competition**, showcasing her

research on **"Consequences of Labeling Children with ADHD in Schools in Dubai: Educators' Perspectives."** Krystel's dedication and commitment to advancing inclusive education were recognized at the event, reflecting AUD's mission to foster pioneering research that drives meaningful change in educational practices. A heartfelt thanks to **Prof. Eman Gaad and the British University in Dubai (BUID)** team for graciously hosting the third day of the summit and providing a collaborative platform for knowledge exchange and innovation in inclusion.



## Common Core Boot Camp

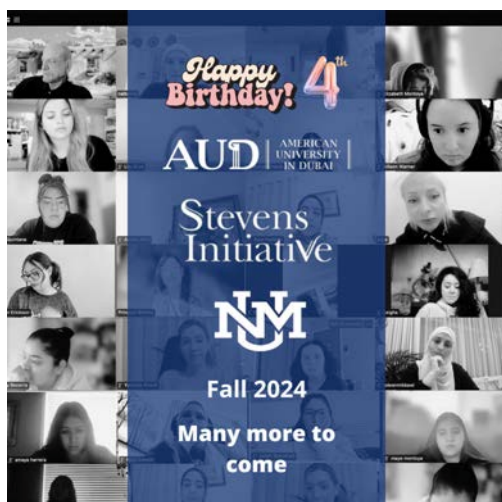
On September 21, 2024, the **Common Core Boot Camp** at the American University in Dubai (AUD) brought together over **350 educators, school leaders, and facilitators** for an engaging day of professional development. Organized by **Copperstone Education, led by Mr. Jeffrey Smith and Ms. Veronica Griffin, NBCT, M.Ed.**, the event featured insightful workshops and keynote sessions focused on enhancing instructional strategies aligned with Common Core Standards. [Click to watch](#)

Special thanks to the Common Core Boot Camp leadership committee, speakers, and facilitators for their efforts, and to the dedicated M.Ed. faculty and alumni who supported the event. AUD extends its gratitude



to key partners, including the Growmore team, for their collaboration in making the event a success. The boot camp reinforced AUD's commitment to professional development and fostering meaningful connections within the educational community. [Click to watch](#)

## Celebrating 4 Years of COIL: Building Global Exchange at AUD



The School of Education at the American University in Dubai (AUD) proudly celebrates four years of successful **COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning)** partnerships, an initiative that has transformed virtual exchange into a powerful tool for cross-cultural learning and collaboration. What began as a single virtual exchange project during the COVID-19 pandemic has evolved into a sustainable partnership with

**Dr. Hart Lewis** from the **University of New Mexico**, facilitated by the **Stevens Initiative** Virtual Exchange Program. This semester, students engaged in an 8-week collaboration, exploring critical cultural themes such as ethnicity, ability, religion, socio-economics, gender, and bilingualism. Through their projects, they challenged assumptions, broadened perspectives, and enhanced digital literacy—all while fostering meaningful global connections. A special thank you to **Dr. Vinod Pangracious of AUD School of Engineering**, for his unwavering support in championing COIL initiatives at AUD, and to all our students for their dedication and commitment to meaningful global learning. The School of Education remains committed to expanding COIL experiences and fostering international collaboration, looking forward to many more years of strong partnerships.

[Click to watch](#)

# Conferences Participations & Academic Engagement:

## AUD at QS Reimagine Education Awards 2024

The **American University in Dubai (AUD)** proudly participated in the **QS Reimagine Education Awards**, held in London from December 9–11, 2024. **Dr. Salman** represented AUD as a judge, evaluating projects in the category of **'Best Use of Generative AI and AI in Education,'** applying criteria of **innovation, impact, and scalability**. She commended the innovative ideas presented and highlighted the awards' role in shaping the future of education.



AUD was also **shortlisted** for the **Power of Partnership Award** for its **COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning)** project, **"Transformative Education through International Virtual Exchange."** Presented by **Dr. Nadera Alborno** and **Dr. Hania Mahassen of AUD School of Arts & Sciences**, the project showcases how COIL fosters cross-cultural collaboration and global problem-solving skills. This achievement reflects AUD's commitment to innovative, globally connected education, made possible through collaborations with faculty and international partners.

## AUD at the RAK Teachers Network Symposium 2024



**The School of Education at AUD** proudly contributed to the **RAK Teachers Network Symposium**, held on **October 26–27, 2024**, at the **Zayed Educational Complex** in Ras Al Khaimah. The symposium, organized by **Al Qasimi Foundation**, provided a platform for educators across the UAE to explore innovative teaching strategies and gain

valuable insights into **International Assessments, including UAE's Program for International Student Assessment (PISA)**, through keynote speeches, plenary sessions, and interactive workshops conducted in both Arabic and English. Representing AUD, **Dr. Nadera Alborno** delivered two sessions on **"Education for All: Effective Practices in Inclusive Classrooms,"** emphasizing strategies to create inclusive learning environments that empower every student. Her bilingual sessions resonated with attendees, highlighting the university's ongoing commitment to advancing inclusive education.

[Click to see more](#)



# Community Outreach

## Empowering Future Educators: Inclusive Education Workshop at AUD

The School of Education at AUD recently hosted an enriching Inclusive Education workshop for **B.Ed. students from the Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT)**. The workshop provided an engaging learning experience through insightful discussions, interactive activities, and thought-provoking reflections, offering students a deeper understanding of inclusive teaching practices.



Led by Dean Alborno the session gave pre-service teachers a valuable glimpse into master's-level concepts, inspiring them to consider further studies in inclusive education.



A special thank you to HCT's Dr. Hieda A. Mized, Ed.D., for initiating this collaboration and supporting the professional development of future educators. The event also provided an exciting opportunity for students to meet AUD President Dr. Long, adding to the day's memorable experience. This collaboration exemplifies AUD's commitment to shaping the future of education by equipping aspiring teachers with the knowledge and skills needed to create inclusive and empowering learning environments.

[Click to watch](#)



## Inclusion Awareness Session at Dubai National School – Al Barsha

The School of Education at AUD conducted an insightful awareness session on the **Inclusion of Students with Learning Disabilities at Dubai National School – Al Barsha**, led by **Dr. Nadera Alborno**.

Attended by **subject leaders and the Inclusion Department**, the session emphasized the importance of adopting the right mindset in addressing learning disabilities. Educators explored the use of appropriate terminology and gained a deeper understanding of students' unique needs, fostering a more

fostering a more inclusive and supportive educational environment.

Dubai National School – Al Barsha holds a special connection with AUD, **with nine current students and alumni of the M.Ed. program** playing an active role in driving inclusive education within the school community.

This initiative reflects AUD's ongoing commitment to empowering educators with the knowledge and awareness needed to support all learners effectively.

# Alumni Spotlight

## Celebrating Alumni Success: Nehad Metawie's Inspiring Journey



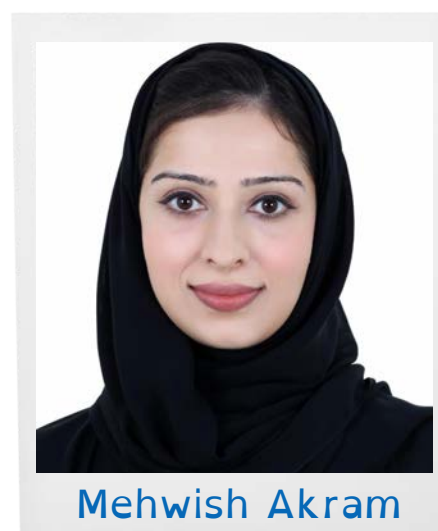
The School of Education at AUD proudly celebrates the achievements of Nehad Metawie, a distinguished alumna who has

recently obtained her certification as a social therapist in the UAE. Nehad's journey of academic excellence began with earning her M.Ed. from AUD in 2016, followed by her pursuit of an MSc in Psychology from the University of Leicester in 2022. Her dedication to personal and professional growth has now led her to a pivotal role as a certified counselor at AUD, where she is making a meaningful impact on students and the community. We are incredibly proud of Nehad's accomplishments and her unwavering commitment to fostering positive change in the field of education and mental health.

## Celebrating M.Ed. Alumni Success: Mehwish Akram's Achievement

The School of Education at AUD proudly celebrates the success of **Mehwish Akram**, Class of 2024, who has secured a full-time position as a **Grade 3 Math & Science Teacher at Clarion School** after initially serving as a substitute teacher.

We congratulate Mehwish on this well-deserved achievement and wish her continued success in shaping young minds and making a positive impact in the classroom.





# Upcoming Events

## Common Core Workshop: Advancing Inclusion and Leadership in Education

We are excited to announce the upcoming **Common Core Workshop** scheduled for **February 15, 2025**. This interactive event is designed for educators and school leaders, offering a platform for professional growth and collaboration. The workshop will target **five essentials streams: Standards, STEM, Inclusions, Well-being and ELL (English Language Learners)**.

In addition, a special School Leadership strand will focus on School Improvement, offering actionable strategies to enhance educational leadership. This workshop provides numerous opportunities for networking and knowledge-sharing, empowering participants to promote educational excellence across various school settings.

## Gallery







## Stay Connected with Us!

Have questions or want to learn more about our program? Reach out to us:

- **Email:** [se@aud.edu](mailto:se@aud.edu)
- **Phone:** +971 4 399 9000 Ext: 234
- **Website:** [www.aud.edu](http://www.aud.edu)
- **Social Media:**
  - **Instagram:** [School of Education - AUD](#)
  - **LinkedIn:** [AUD School of Education](#)
  - **YouTube:** [AUD School of Education](#)

Stay informed and inspired—let's shape the future of education together!