

Experiences and Advances on University Transformation at AUB

Session 2: Transforming Higher Education Project Updates



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- **AUB Mission:**

The American University of Beirut (AUB) is an institution of higher learning founded to provide **excellence in education**, to participate in the **advancement of knowledge** through research, and to **serve the peoples** of the Middle East and beyond

...Graduates will be individuals committed to **creative and critical thinking, life-long learning, personal integrity, civic responsibility, and leadership.**

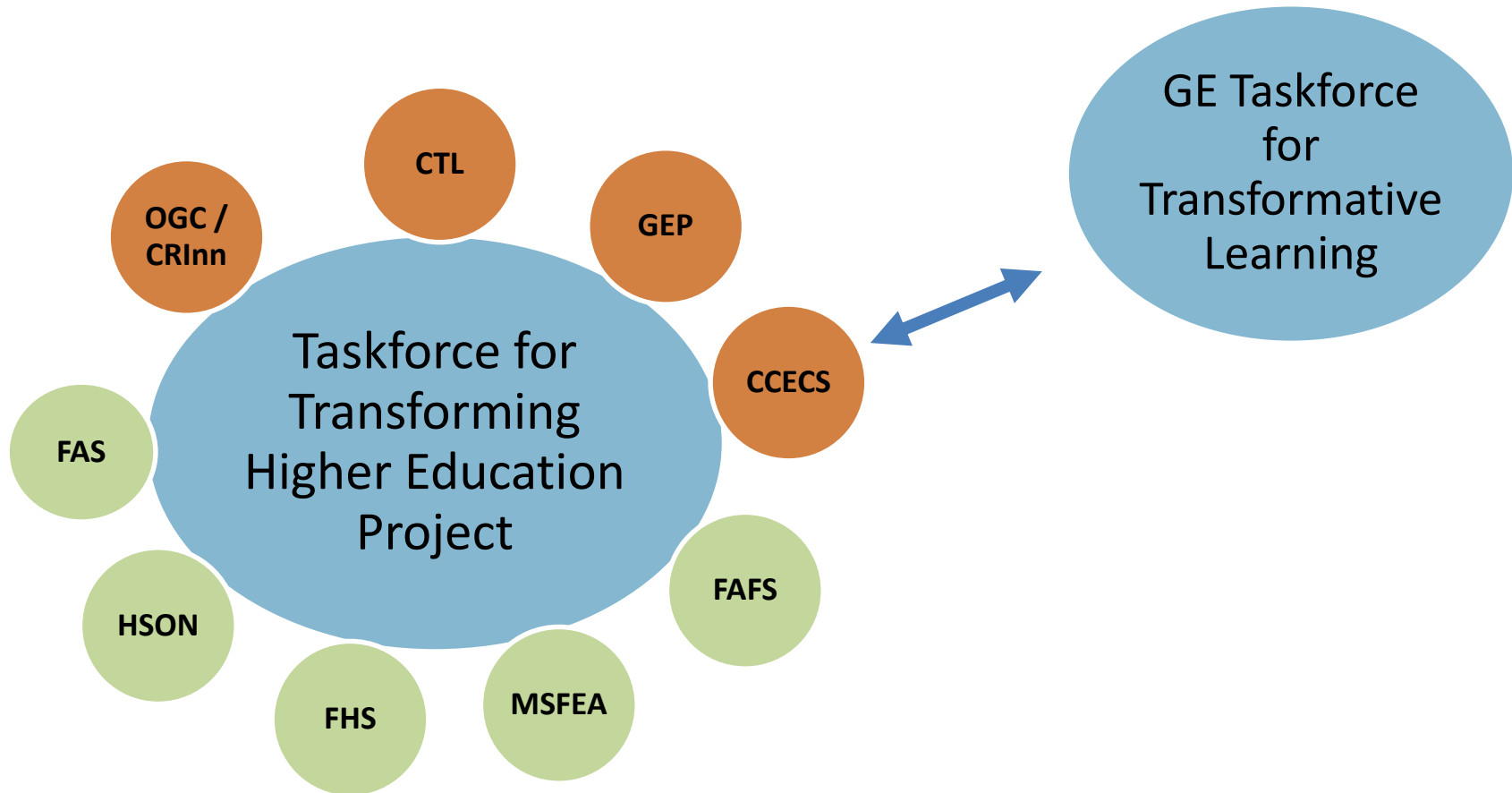
Background

- A teaching-centered research university, AUB has around 800 instructional faculty and a student body of around 9,000 students
- AUB includes seven faculties: FAFS, FAS, MSFEA, FHS, FM, HSON, and OSB
- AUB currently offers more than 130 programs leading to the bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees.

Commitment to the project

- AUB has committed to lead this project and facilitate educational transformation across the participating institutions and beyond
- We will build on what is happening at AUB and continue building bridges between AUB community, stakeholders, humanitarian agencies & policymakers to promote Transformative Education
- We have formed a Taskforce for this purpose

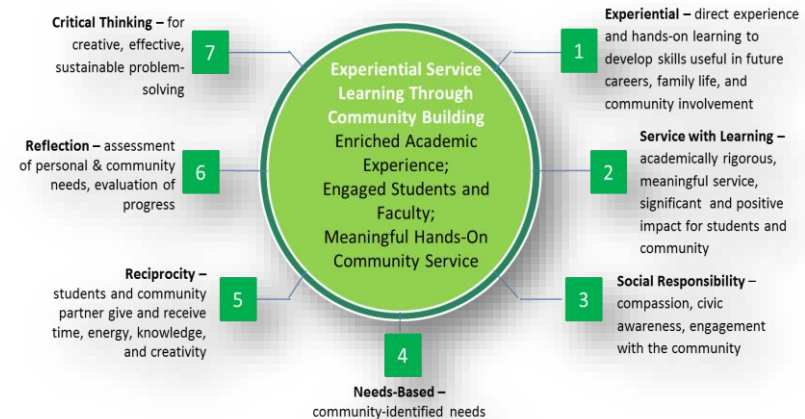
AUB Taskforce for Transformative Learning



On-going Activities at AUB Aligned With Project Objectives

Transformative Education & Learning:

- **Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)**
- **Service Learning:**
 - FAFS-GDT Senior Capstone Experience
 - MSFEA Humanitarian Engineering Initiative/Course
 - HSON Community Health Nursing Course (Experiential Learning)
 - Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (CCECS)
 - OSB Executive Education (Experiential)
 - AREC, Internships, FYPs and Tutorials
- **Life-Long Learning**
 - Extension Programs
 - Certificates and Diplomas



On-going Activities at AUB Aligned With Project Objectives

- **Community Development**

- Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (CCECS)
- FHS Community Engagement Activities
- FAFS Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (ESDU)
- MSFEA Humanitarian Engineering Initiative/Course
- Neighborhood Initiative
- Internships, FYPs and Tutorials



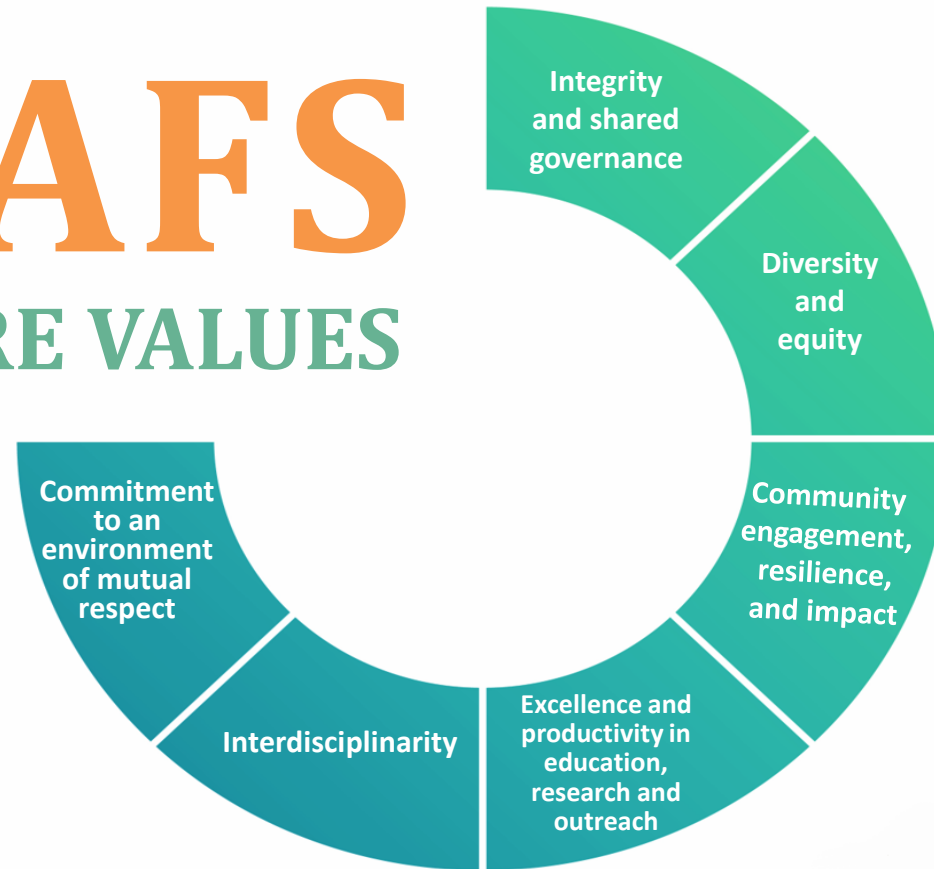
- **Entrepreneurship/Leadership:**

- MSFEA Entrepreneurship Track
- OSB Executive Education
- OSB FYP Accelerator
- CRInn
- iPARK



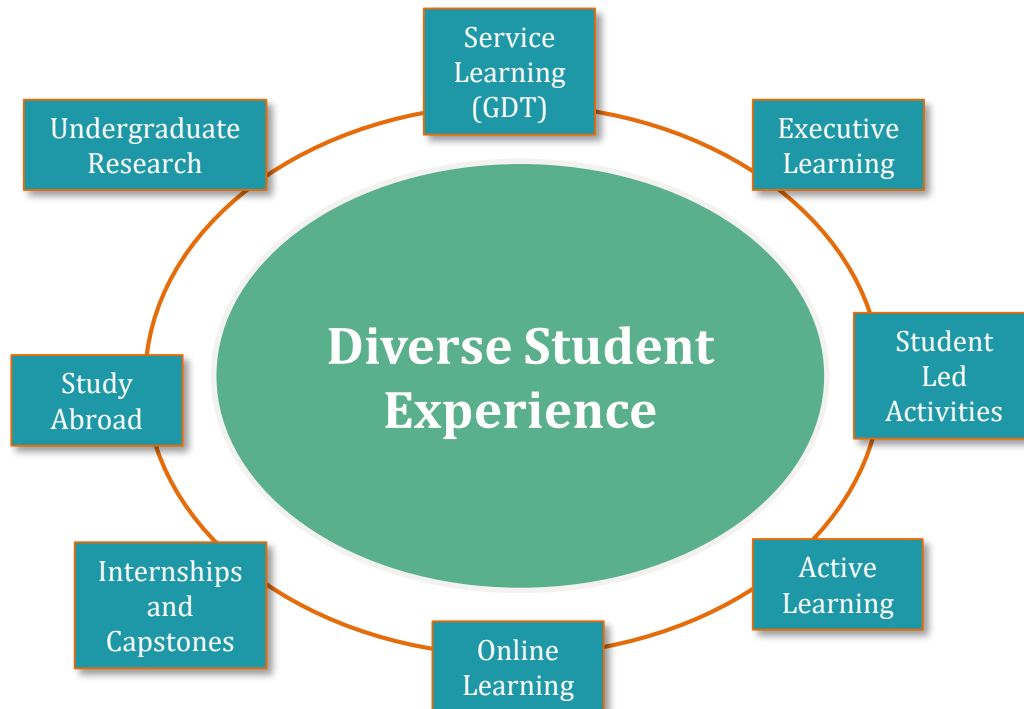
FAFS

CORE VALUES



Strategic Initiative: Goal 2 (Deliver outstanding student experience)

Outstanding Student Experience



Strategic initiative: Goal 5 (Effectively engage with FAFS stakeholders)

FAFS Engagement Strategy

1
Infuse

the culture and practice of engagement among FAFS faculty, students, and staff

2
Promote

faculty engagement in community service research and outreach

3
Serve

the most disadvantaged communities through research and development

4
Educate

students to become positive agents of change in their communities and its development



Main Outcomes:

1. Learning about EARTH's Educational Model
2. Commitment to participation in the project
3. Commitment to Key Elements of Success
4. Plan for Change Agenda

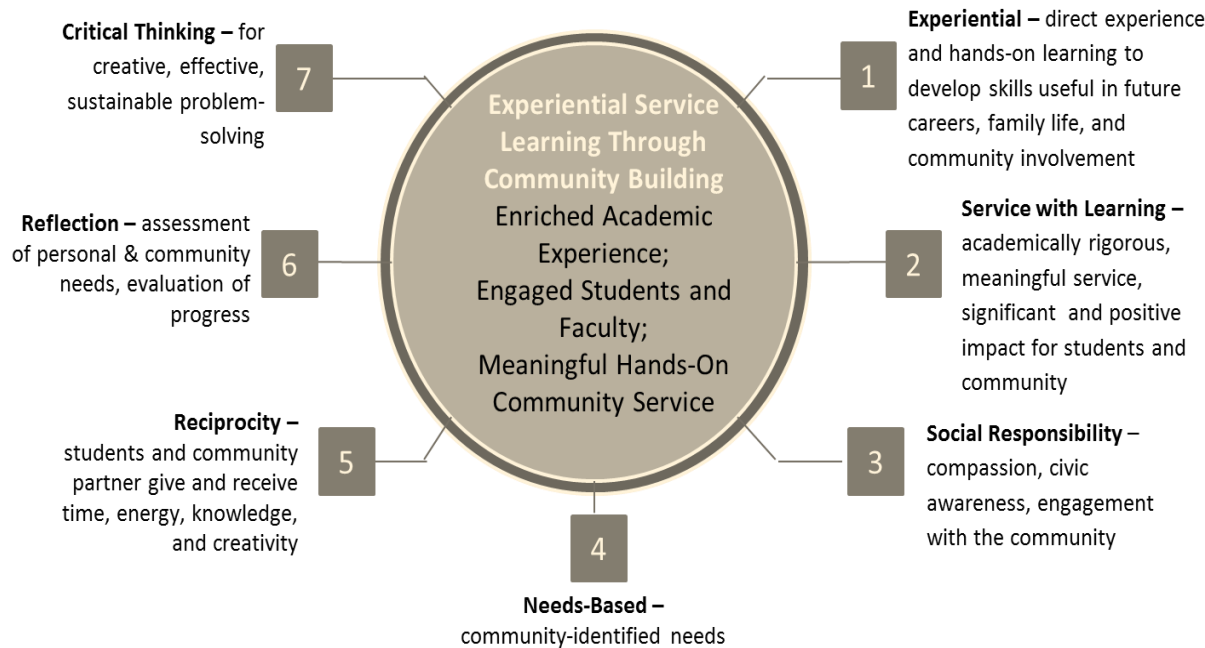


AUB's commitment:

1. Implementing Capstone Experience(s) across campus
2. General Education Course: proposal for a new course looking at social responsibility and engaging with the community
3. Reform AREC as a hub for innovations and community engagement across all faculties

Global Design Teams (GDT)

Global Design Teams offer high-impact international development projects, full-cycle design experience, and a real-world environment that raises global awareness by providing a global experience with humanitarian impact.



The Global Design Team Model



Global Design Teams



Sustainable Water Management Solutions	Sewage & Sanitation Jonestown, TX	Cotton Ginning and Contamination Texas	Cacao Pod Cracker Design (Hilo, Hawaii)	Food waste / Processing Tanzania	Meat Processing Method Nigeria	Chicken Manure Texas
Park Development San Antonio, Texas	Cardamom Value Chain Guatemala	Air Quality TX: College Station, Houston Vellore (Chennai, Tamil Nadu)		Aquaponics California	Water Purification India	Mower attachments, Farm Equipment Texas

ESDU emphasizes an interdisciplinary focus whose research outcomes are transferred directly to community stakeholders and policy makers

Keepers of the land:

- Serving the communities
- Empowering vulnerable communities
- Building capacities
- Improving livelihoods



RCODE Graduate Program:

- MSc in Rural Community Development

Outreach & Development:

- Women Keepers of the Land, ESDU for Refugees, Food Heritage Foundation, Karianet, REEF





VISION

AREC as a

Climate and Sustainability Center

Learning, Innovation and Engagement Center

for Renewable Resources and Health

at the American University of Beirut

Goals

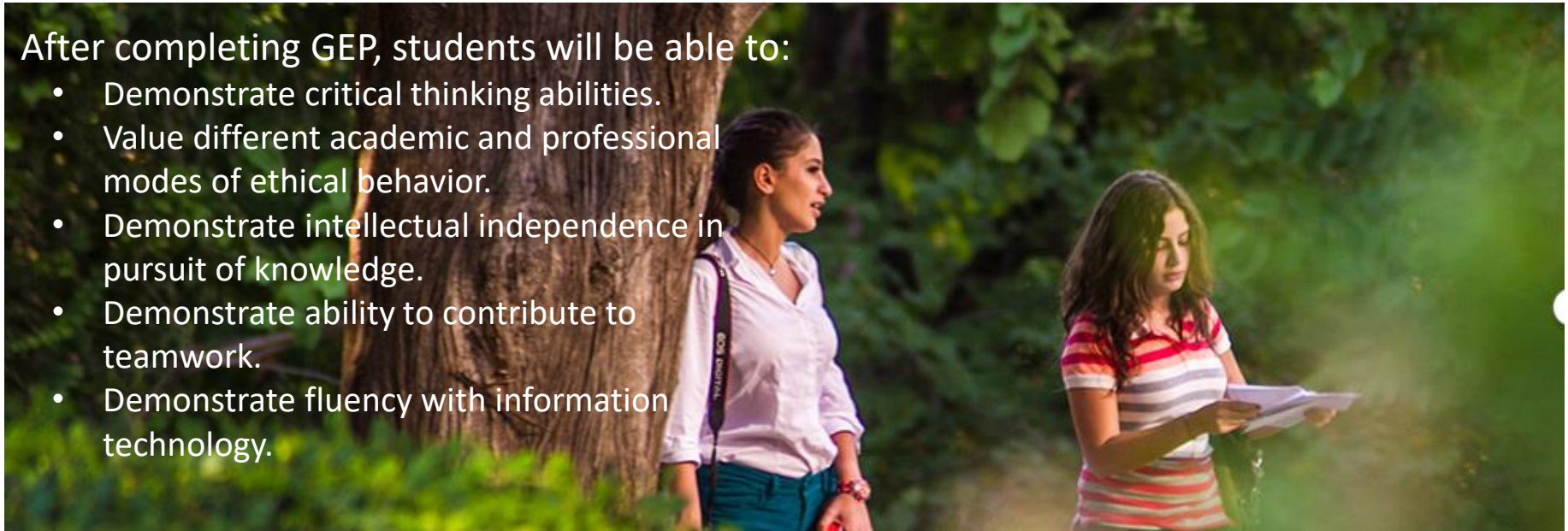
1. Regional Hub for **Water-Energy-Food-Health (WEFH) Nexus**
2. Hub for Participatory **Student Learning Experience**
3. Regional **Community Engagement** Center
4. Center of Excellence for **Emergency Environments**
5. **Value Creation and Entrepreneurship** Hub



- The General Education Program is that part of the curriculum which provides all AUB undergraduate students with fundamental skills and knowledge that should nurture their intellectual growth and guide them to become knowledgeable and well-informed graduates.

After completing GEP, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate critical thinking abilities.
- Value different academic and professional modes of ethical behavior.
- Demonstrate intellectual independence in pursuit of knowledge.
- Demonstrate ability to contribute to teamwork.
- Demonstrate fluency with information technology.



- The CTL is an independent, multipurpose interdisciplinary unit that serves all the Faculties at the University.
- The **mission** of CTL is to promote & support high quality teaching & learning at AUB in keeping with the mission of the University, particularly the university's commitment to excellence in teaching & the enablement of students to think independently and become life-long learners.



Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (CCECS)

CCECS builds bridges between the university community, stakeholders, humanitarian agencies, policymakers, and community partners, with an overarching mission to integrate developmental planning aimed at empowering marginalized communities with **experiential learning for leadership development and transformative education.**

> Community Development Projects



Designing and implementing multi-year strategic interventions in collaboration with AUB Faculties, renowned regional and international partners, local stakeholders, and the targeted communities

Transformative Education for Scholarship Students



Mentoring students to learn in unstructured environments in order to develop their leadership skills, and to enact impactful change in challenging settings

> AUB Engage



Connecting AUB students, faculty and staff with community partners to engage in activities that enhance learning, civic responsibility and the skills of citizenship, while also enhancing community capacity through service

> Syria Relief Response Projects



Supporting interventions engaging refugees and Lebanese host communities within the areas of education, shelter, sanitation, psychosocial wellbeing, and food security

<https://www.aub.edu.lb/ccecs/Pages/default.aspx>

And many other activities...

Humanitarian
Engineering Initiative –
MSFEA & FHS



The Neighborhood
Initiative



AUB i-Park (launched
earlier this week)



FYP Accelerator



Center For Research
and Innovation (CRInn)



<https://www.aub.edu.lb/>

Thank you

