



USAID's Higher Education System Strengthening Activity

International Summit on Shaping the Future of Higher Education in Pakistan 10-12 June 2024, Islamabad

Session 7: Day 2, Tuesday, June 11, 2024 – Showcase 14:30-17:00

Topic: Showcasing HESSA Best Practices: Enhancing Student Success through Integrated Support Systems

- Speakers:**
- Prof. Dr. Asif Ali Qaiser, Director Student Affairs, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Polymer and Process Engineering, University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore
 - Dr. Mehfooz Ullah, Director Business Incubation Center, Karakoram International University, Gilgit
 - Dr. Sajida Naz, Associate Professor, Department of Behaviour Sciences and Incharge Counselling & Well Being Centre, Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi
 - Dr. Saeed Ahmed, Director, Graduate Placement Bureau, Mirpur University of Science and Technology, Azad Jammu & Kashmir
 - Mr. Muhammad Sheraz Tariq, Deputy Director, University Advancement Office, National University of Sciences & Technology, Islamabad

Introduction

HESSA Component C, Enhancing Support Services Across the Student Life Cycle, specifically seeks to improve the soft skills development of students for their better employability. HESSA support 16 partner HEIs through six thematic intervention areas: Financial Aid (fundraising and scholarship management), Career Services, Student Leadership Development and Programming, Student Microenterprise Development, Mental Health, and Alumni Engagement & Development. This session aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the substantial progress that has been made over the past two years in integrating student services into Pakistan's higher education institutions (HEIs). Five representatives from project partner HEIs, who have made significant contributions in their respective field of work, will present and delve into their key areas that have been the focus of HESSA work. Speakers will enlighten on the progress made and will share best practices on enhancing student services and how to prepare graduates with soft skills to be better prepare for workforce or becoming entrepreneurs. The panel members will also be engaged in a productive and valuable discussions around student services, and how to better integrate student affairs offices and services at the public HEIs. This session will leave

participants with a greater appreciation of the progress made in integrating student services, and the opportunities that lie ahead.

The six thematic intervention areas for Component C include:

- Financial Aid
- Career Readiness
- Student Leadership & Co-Curricular
- Alumni Engagement & Development
- Student Entrepreneurship
- Mental Health

Specific Training

In this highly informative session, we aim to provide a comprehensive overview of the substantial progress that has been made over the past three years in integrating student services into Pakistan's higher education institutions. Our presentation will delve into six key areas that have been the focus of our efforts, and we'll enlighten you on the progress made in each of these areas.

We'll begin by presenting the latest developments in financial aid, where we have been working tirelessly to provide students with easier and more accessible options for financial support. Our presentation will also cover career readiness, where we have been providing students with the necessary skills and guidance to prepare them for the workforce.

We'll then move on to student leadership and co-curricular activities, where we have been striving to create opportunities for students to hone their leadership skills and engage in extracurricular activities. We will also discuss alumni engagement and development, where we have been working to foster stronger connections between alumni and the institutions they graduated from.

Additionally, we'll cover student entrepreneurship, where we have been providing students with the resources and support they need to launch their own businesses. Finally, we'll discuss mental health, where we have been working to provide students with the necessary resources and support to maintain their mental well-being.

To provide a deeper understanding of these areas, we have invited a panel of distinguished experts who have made significant contributions in their respective fields. They will share their experiences and insights, providing valuable perspectives on how we can continue to improve and expand these services.

Our panel will be moderated by the well-known Asma Mohsin, who will help facilitate a productive and engaging discussion. We are confident that this session will leave participants with a greater appreciation of the progress made in integrating student services, and the opportunities that lie ahead.