1. **Title of the Presentation:** (15-20 words followed by name and affiliation)

Towards an Effective Community-Campus Partnership: A Case from An-Najah National University

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1. ***Main focus:*** *A 1-2 sentence summary of what the theme and overall message is that you will make with the time you have*

To introduce a methodological approach to make an effective partnership between the community organizations and the university by presenting a case from ANU. The effective partnership is not a goal *per se*, but it is an essential requirement for initiating a successful Community Based Learning (CBL) program, which aims mainly to move the learning process from knowing to doing while serving the community.

1. ***Background:*** *A brief summary of the background, setting the context to the issue/research problem on which you will present and to whom this issue is important*

Community Based Learning (CBL) is a learning approach in which the communities provide the worksite as an extension of the classroom while the university helps communities (organizations) solve their problems through projects proposed based on both sides’ interests. CBL enables universities to play their social and economic roles in the community. CBL, however, is a newly evolving pedagogical approach, which has not been institutionalized as a well-defined process with clearly defined actors and roles.

On one hand, the community organizations do not have the organizational capacity nor do they spare resources for collaboration with academic institutions. Academic institutions, on the other hand, do not have clear mechanisms of effective partnership with the community. The Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) at ANU initiated a CBL program in 2012; since then the process has gone through an evaluation and revision cycles in order to improve the quality of the offered courses and outcomes. Towards institutionalizing the CBL process, CELT has recently taken important steps of initiation, development and institutionalizing partnerships with the local communities’ organizations.

In my presentation, I will highlight the encountered problems and the major challenges faced the CBL program. More importantly, the presentation will introduce a suggested framework—designed and implemented by CELT team—to solve these problems and to facilitate the CBL process. This issue is of high importance to the civil society institutions, community and non-profit organizations, besides the higher education institutions.

1. **Audience:** 1 sentence on who within the alumni audience may find this most interesting (e.g. lawyers, human rights advocates, public health specialists, researchers/practitioners/policy makers, etc.)

University instructors, researchers and policy makers.

1. ***Methodology or Approaches:*** *The methodology you used, or your work/academic or professional involvement in coming to your conclusions.*

The new approach was suggested by CELT team who worked initially on defining the challenging issues facing the CBL teachers referring to the feedback on previous CBL courses. The team found that the weak collaboration between the CBL teachers and the community partners is the most frequent challenge CBL teachers mention in their continuous feedback.

The team outlined a working plan of three stages for approaching the campus-community partnership as the most challenging issue facing the CBL initiative.

The methodology of the community-campus partnership consists of three main stages: partnership initiation stage, partnership development stage and revision and assessment stage. At the end, the presentation will give the audience an idea about the success and the failure of the partnership project.

In the initiation stage, a questionnaire was distributed to 40 community organization from three sectors: (1) Women and Children Empowerment Sector, (2) Educational Sector and (3) Engineering and Services Sector. The questionnaire aimed to define the community organizations’ needs and to define their level of readiness to collaborate with the university in future.

In the second stage, community representatives from the 40 organizations were invited to a working day in the university to work with teachers from corresponding departments. Both sides worked on defining specific community needs that fit in university classes. At the end of this stage, the output of the working day was put on a website named Campus-Community Partnership Connector (CCPC). The website was designed specifically to be used by the teachers and the community representatives as a reference for available classes and the appropriate contact persons either in the university or in the community organizations.

In the last stage, CELT team evaluated the first round of using the CCPC and defined the weaknesses and the strengths of the system.

1. **Findings, Conclusions and Outcomes:** 1-2 sentences on the outcomes/the overall message/conclusion you will present

The preliminary feedback from CBL teachers involved in the CCPC project show promising results. The community partners were enthusiastically involved in the CBL activities because the new approach was more informative about the appropriateness of the partnership from the early stages and before the CBL classes start. Both parties were able to decide whether the partnership is mutually beneficial or it is inconsistent with their goals and priorities, or the time and resources available are insufficient. This reduces the possibility of terminating the partnership before the CBL class ends; a common problem CBL teachers usually face.

1. *Possible connections to the concept of resilience, country and/or regional focus and potential generalizations to the MENA region*

One important goal of the suggested campus-community partnership approach is to help community organizations and NGOs with limited resources conduct projects free of charge, which reflect in somehow the concept of resilience. The approach can be generalized either at the national or at the regional level with the available resources as happened in at ANU.

1. ***Tools needed:*** *Please note if you will use PowerPoint or showing any other media, or need any supporting equipment/tools/applications.*

I will have a PowerPoint presentation