

Inauguration Ceremony of the Communication Studies Department At the Faculty of Journalism –Balkh University

Date: Monday, October, 25, 2018

Time: 9:30PM to 12:00PM

Program Agenda:

1. Opening Remarks, By Prof. Mukamil Alkozai, Balkh University Chancellor
2. Remarks by the Balkh Province Deputy Governor, Mr. M. Ishaq Rahgozar
3. Remarks, by Abdul Tawab Balakarzai, Deputy Minister of Academic Affairs MoHE
4. Remarks by Head of Provincial Council of Balkh
5. Remarks by the UNO Representative, Mr. Hamidullah Anwari
6. Remarks by the Deputy Chief of Party-USWDP Mr. Habibullah Wajdi
7. Remarks by the Acting Dean of Faculty of Journalism, Prof. Abdul Hamid Safwat
8. Certificate distribution to the steering committee members
9. Visiting the classrooms and cutting the ribbon

The Communication Studies degree program is established at the Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication at Balkh University. This partnership was made possible through USAID's University Support Workforce Development Program administered by financial support under FHI360. This project was implemented by the University of Nebraska. UNO provided all technical and academic support required to establish the department of Communication Studies at Balkh University.



UNO, as a partner university, was able to achieve the project objectives and were able to:

- Develop and prepare a standard curriculum for the new department of Communication Studies
- Provide access to resources to acquire standardize teaching materials
- Prepare learning tools and the venue
- Develop and create course syllabi for each subject

- Enhance teaching capacities of the professors who are teaching at the new department of communication
- Develop teaching materials and translate six textbooks from English to Dari
- Conduct online theory courses for Afghan professors
- Assist BU professors to develop policy documents to be localized and applicable by Afghan partner university

At the beginning of the program Prof. Mukamil Alkozai, Chancellor of Balkh University, talked in detail about Balkh University's current condition, their achievements, academic position and challenges they have faced. He expressed his gratitude to all parties involved in establishing the Communication Studies program.



Later on, the Deputy Governor of Balkh province talked about education and its role in society. He expressed his support in helping Balkh University and asked all the partners the help out in the future as well.



UNO Kabul office director, Mr. Hamidullah Anwari talked about UNO's role and responsibilities in this great achievement. He thanked all the partners who supported and facilitated the program and implemented this project successfully. He also mentioned the role of UNO professors and the Center for Afghanistan Studies' leadership who worked with great commitment and

dedication. He conveyed his best wishes, regards and congratulated the UNO team and to the Afghan partners and students.

Dr. Habibullah Wajdi, Deputy Chief of Party for USWDP was another speaker at this event. He talked about the Communications Degree program, and role of USWDP overall. And thanked all partners who have worked with dedication and commitment especially UNO as a technical partner. Mr. Abdul Hamid Safwat, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Journalism talked briefly about the project activities and achievements which were done by both universities during the timeframe of the project. He appreciated UNO's efforts and commitment, he thanked UNO professor Dr. Chris Allen and his team for the hard work they had put in this project.



He also thanked UNO for providing them with translated textbooks, teaching materials, course syllabi for every subject, online theory course and learning opportunities in third countries.

The ceremony ended with handing out of certificates to the steering committee members by the Deputy Minister and USWDP representative. BU also awarded a certificate of appreciation to the

representatives of USWDP and UNO for their support and partnership.

After the ribbon cutting, Communication Studies class started officially at the Faculty of Journalism at Balkh University and everyone met with the newly enrolled students in their classrooms.



Participants also visited the new laboratory and library which was equipped by USWDP. UNO had provided BU with 3,000 copies of the six translated textbooks.



The Communication Studies program was officially handed over to the Faculty of Journalism.

