

Message from Dr. Jabbra to the North American Community

LAU and its family of which you are a major part has since day one been at the forefront of the fight against Covid-19. Known for its dynamism and agility, LAU demonstrated, yet again, its ability to respond rapidly and quickly to a crisis: teaching went online, student services continuity was ensured, the LAU Medical Center – Rizk Hospital swung to action while the University switched to a “working from home mode”. In no time, LAU led the pack of institutions helping Lebanon navigate its multi-tiered crisis and continues to shine as a beacon of hope in a land gripped by despair and shock.

Crisis management is a proven competency for LAU. We have survived two world wars, the Lebanese Civil War, and every conceivable adversity in the book. Our ability to weather storms is in great part due to the immense sense of solidarity and support of the LAU family to our university. In thick and thin, you stood by LAU, stayed the course with it, and spared no effort to extend to it every form of support. Our North American community has always been a valued source of support we count on and look up to as a shining example of commitment and generosity.

These are indeed very hard times for us as we are trying our best to cope on multiple fronts. You can easily imagine the enormity of the challenge and the scale of the ramifications we have to deal with in terms of Academic, Logistic, Financial, and Geographic concerns, as we are a multi-campus university.

We have every intention of preserving and prevailing energized by your trust, galvanized by your support, and made all the more confident by the outpouring of solidarity messages by so many of you. Much to my appreciation, Lebanese Americans have made LAU feel that it’s not alone in the eye of the storm and can depend on our North American diaspora during this crisis.

LAU knows that it will always be on your priority list and counts on this as it navigates a future made more uncertain than anything we’ve had to deal with previously. We look forward to staying in touch with you, and to working together in the service of our society.

As some of you already know, we have had to postpone our fundraiser gala dinner in New York City from April 30 to September 10 in view of the Covid-19 crisis. We earnestly hope that many of you will be part of this major event as supporters, sponsors, and of course, attendees.

I am particularly grateful for the way you have embraced our Emergency Financial Aid Fund launched to help our economically challenged students beyond the \$50 Million LAU has already

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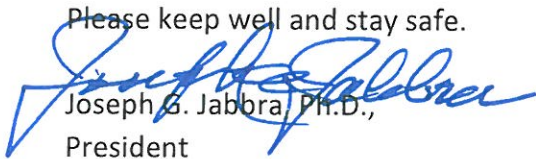
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allocated for the purpose. The fund is going strong thanks to your inspiring generosity. You came forth most impressively and responded to the call of your university in a manner that can only be described as wonderful.

For over a century and a half, LAU in its various institutional manifestations has been a great gift from the United States to Lebanon and the region. With supporters like you, it can and does look forward to many more years of excellence and distinction.

Please keep well and stay safe.



Joseph G. Jabbara, Ph.D.,

President

Lebanese American University