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August 5th, 2024

Calgary, AB

IHE is pleased to announce that **Derek O'Connell** has been appointed as the new **Dean of Education** at IHE, commencing August 5, 2024.

Mr. O'Connell has held several academic administrative roles in his robust and diversified career in the field of education, law/history, academic support, academic advising, and within the public sector. With a deep commitment to leading by example, emphasizing the importance of an excellent work ethic, integrity, and collaborative teamwork in efforts to ensure a positive impact, he has served on numerous committees and boards, and brings with him a host of leadership skills. Most recently, he served the Government of Alberta associated with the Ministry of Forestry and Parks as Lead Park Ranger.

Prior to this, he spent years working overseas making a tremendous difference. Since 2008, Derek contributed to the University of Nizwa through various directorship roles related to academic support and advising with the aim of helping students achieve success within their degree programs.

He has taught a host of academic courses including: *TOEFL, IELTS, ESL for Adults, Writing 101, Technical Writing for Business 201, Communications Skills 101, English 101, English 201, APA & MLA Referencing and Citations, Plagiarism Awareness, General English 101, ESL Beginner, Intermediate, & Advanced, Graduation Project Research, Peer Tutor Mentoring, Reading Comprehension, Online Learning, Blended Learning, English for Banking, English for Tourism, English for Medical and Pharmacy, Paraphrasing and Summarization Skills, & Teacher Training.*

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Accredited for establishing the first writing center in the Sultanate of Oman
- Provided a significant contribution to the UoN as the first University within Oman to achieve full academic accreditation in 2023.
- Served as Vice-President of the Middle East North African Writing Center Alliance (MENAWCA) from 2012-2013
- Received commendation from the Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation (OAAA) in 2011
- Received commendation from the International Writing Center Alliance (IWCA) for establishing a world-class writing center by Middle East, United States, and global standards
- Served as a member and as the convener from 2009 to 2023 for the Academic Support Services Board at the UoN.
- Presided as a board of directors' member for the Canadian Studies Program at Hansung University.
- Exceeded 250,000 student academic support appointments from 2009~2023



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We look forward to working with Derek as he brings his strong commitment to teaching and learning, research excellence, and academic leadership to this role. Derek will be ensuring our teaching faculty and IHE programming needs remain top notch, continue to meet our customer and stakeholder needs alike, all the while providing overall strategy, operational and leadership efforts as required.

I would like to thank the staff at IHE who participated in this search process.

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to Mike Hansen, CEO for his steady leadership, especially over the past year.

Please join me in officially welcoming Derek to TEAM IHE.

Thank you,

Christine Hansen
Senior Vice-President, IHE

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine Hansen".

Connect with Derek

LinkedIn URL www.linkedin.com/in/derek-o-connell-7631b62a2