The Female Saudi Students Engineering Their Future

This article originally appeared on the GE Hewar blog.

As the sun rises this morning in Dallas, Texas, 18 Saudi female biomedical engineering students will be getting ready for the first day of an intensive, hands-on learning program that will help them continue to break stereotypes.

Around the world, and in Saudi Arabia, the wider Middle East, and Turkey, women are underrepresented in the engineering field, but these students are working to change that. GE Healthcare Education Solutions is helping, with the second edition of a summer internship program taking place in Texas.

For the next four weeks, the students will participate in the "Biomedical Engineering Technology Program," being held at the MediSend Global Education Center in Dallas, in collaboration with the Healthcare Skills Training Institute (HSTI). HSTI is run by GE Healthcare Education Solutions in partnership with King Fahad Medical City and is located in the heart of the medical city campus in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The "Biomedical Engineering Technology Program" is designed to help these senior-year students from the University of Dammam (UoD) learn the essentials of medical terminology and healthcare policies; study the design of medical instruments in state-of-the-art electronics and medical equipment laboratories; and explore and learn the fundamentals of select biomedical technologies such as patient monitoring, life support and ultrasound imaging equipment. The courses are taught by MediSend instructors.

The program also includes sessions from GE experts in areas such as leadership development,
change management and engineering topics like “Risk Management and Human Factors Engineering.”

During the internship, the students will have an opportunity to work in their chosen clinical specialty at Baylor University Medical Center. They will experience real-world situations, working in an active clinical setting with experts in their field.

The expectation is that following the program, the students will be empowered to help improve Saudi Arabia’s healthcare system and the quality of life in their communities.

The program is the product of collaboration among UoD, GE Healthcare Education Solutions and MediSend Global Education Center. For the second year, it is sponsored by John Hopkins Aramco.

“With this education partnership and the program’s continuation, our vision is to help female engineers realize their goals of working in a profession that offers a good earning potential and opportunities for professional advancement,” said Iyad Al-Mobarek, General Manager of Education Solutions for GE Healthcare in Saudi Arabia, the Middle East and Turkey.

Today, more than 25,000 GE Healthcare technologies are deployed across the Kingdom’s hospitals. GE Healthcare also has provided training to more than 6,000 healthcare professionals in the Kingdom over the past three years, part of the company’s decades-long commitment to helping strengthen the local medical community by offering clinical and technical trainings to achieve the ministry’s “patient first” vision.

For more information on the Education Solutions biomedical engineering program, please visit the program website.