

1067-D1-1629

Dale J Winter* (amanita@andrew.cmu.edu), 5000 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. *Supporting the high school to highly demanding university transition for ESL learners in an environment of strong ethnic and cultural diversity: The case of Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar.*

For six years, Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) has operated a campus in Qatar. Courses are taught to the rigorous standards of CMU's main campus. Students identify with a wide variety of ethnic groups, cultural traditions and varying levels of English proficiency. The high school backgrounds of entering students reflect additional diversity in terms of educational philosophies, academic rigor and socioeconomic status. In this talk we will describe the evolution of the university's academic support center. We will describe some of the specific issues and challenges met by the center in the area of developmental mathematics. In addition, we will describe some of the programs that we have implemented to assist students as transition to a highly competitive, demanding, and academically intense educational environment. Finally, we will provide data to illustrate areas of program effectiveness. (Received September 21, 2010)