

# Acquiring knowledge. Building foundations.

“My mother and father were nation-builders. Founding a college was not simply an exercise in providing education for women. It was a fundamental step in the process of establishing a nation-state.” **HRH Princess Lolowah, February 2013**

In less than 20 years following the founding of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1932, the number of schools in Riyadh alone went from zero to 316. The number of doctors and hospitals followed a similar trajectory.

The industry and ambition and energy with which a nation was established and built, find a modern parallel in Effat University – where students are made ready, with the broadest of educations, to play their part in the national story.

The girls who graduate from Effat University may be the architects and engineers – literally and figuratively – of the Kingdom’s next phase of development. They may be the home-makers and mothers of the next generation. The importance of each of them is equal, whatever path they choose to follow.

Queen Effat believed that *“the mother can be a school in herself”*, encapsulating a profound confidence in the matriarchal role within Saudi society.

Like each individual mother, the University nurtures and nourishes its ‘children’ with a strength of discipline designed only to liberate them and equip them for the individual roles which, collectively, enable the nation to evolve and progress.

## A presence in the community.

In the Kingdom’s formative years, King Faizal and Queen Effat invited teachers, doctors, architects, industry professionals from around the world to bring their expertise to Saudi Arabia. Over the years, many Saudis have taken the reverse journey, going out into the

world to study at established institutions. And to this day, there is an appeal for young Saudis to further their education at Harvard, Yale, Oxford.

Our aspiration is for Saudi families to regard Effat University as the opportunity on their own doorstep.

A place where the Faculty is worldly and cultured. Where the collective outlook is international. A place where excellence can be assumed. Where the advisors, governors and trustees combine a broad range of experience and wisdom with unshakeable values.

A place where academic programs are innovative and stimulating. Where our partnerships – with other universities, local businesses and organisations – bring new perspectives.

A place where extra- and co-curricular activities and experiences open up new horizons. Where your peers are energised and energising. But crucially, a place where you are amongst your family. Where the school is your mother, and each student acquires the skills to become, as Queen Effat envisaged – the school.

In this way, Effat University is assured a presence in the community as a place where everyone responds to ‘iqra’ – the Islamic command to acquire knowledge – in its fullest and widest sense.