

SHERAA HUB LAUNCH

5TH October, 2016 (10.00am – 12.00pm)

American University of Sharjah (Library Building)

PANEL 2: 10.45am – 11.30am

Educating Entrepreneurs: The Role of Universities in the UAE Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

Universities have traditionally seen themselves as playing two primary roles: the creator and disseminator of knowledge (research and teaching, respectively). Today, however, universities are expected to take on a “third mission” of supporting, and contributing to, economic growth and job creation, through entrepreneurship and innovation.

This panel brings together the heads of four leading higher education institutions in Sharjah, with a combined student body of over 20,000 students, to discuss this paradigm shift in the role of universities. How can our universities work together to produce more enterprising graduates, with entrepreneurial capabilities and mindsets? What support and resources can we provide to enable students to start their own business? How can position University City to help Sharjah become a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem, in the same way that Stanford did in Silicon Valley and MIT did in Boston?

PANELISTS

- [**Prof. Bjorn Kjerne**, Chancellor, American University of Sharjah \(AUS\)](#)
- [**Prof. Hamid Al-Naimiy**, Chancellor, University of Sharjah](#)
- [**Dr. Muhadditha Yahya Al Hashimi**, Director of the HCT-Sharjah Colleges and Member of the Board of Trustees, University of Sharjah](#)
- [**Mr Nitin Anand**, Chair of Executive Council and Director, Skyline University College](#)

Moderated by

- [**Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi**, Director's Fellow, MIT Media Labs](#)