



## The Phosboucraa Foundation and the Fondation Marocaine de l'Étudiant Honor the Excellence Scholarship Program Beneficiaries

[Saturday, September 8, 2018 – Laayoune] The Phosboucraa Foundation will honor the **157 beneficiaries of its Excellence Scholarship Program** at the Palais des Congrès de Laayoune on **Saturday, September 8**, accompanied by its partners, the Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research, the Regional Academies of the three Southern regions and the Fondation Marocaine de l'Étudiant (FME). Launched in 2014, the **Phosboucraa Foundation Excellence Scholarship** program is the largest scholarship program dedicated to high school graduates from the Kingdom's three Southern regions. A tailor-made program aiming to foster academic excellence and contribute to the rise of a regional elite ready to meet the challenges of the future.

### A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WITH EXCEPTIONAL CONDITIONS

The Phosboucraa Foundation's Excellence Scholarship Program, aimed at the best high school graduates from the three Southern regions, provides its beneficiaries with the opportunity to access prestigious academic curricula and join the best national and international schools by offering them exceptional support conditions. The program, designed in partnership with the FME and with the support of the Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research, guarantees quality conditions and unique circumstances. The offer includes a monthly living expense bursary for the entire duration of studies, housing assistance, a laptop computer, health coverage, transportation costs, and costs to compete for acceptance into the French Grandes Écoles, a coaching program, as well as language support and tutoring.

### A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ROOTED IN EXCELLENCE

Awarded on the basis of academic excellence and socio-economic criteria, the Phosboucraa Foundation's excellence scholarships benefited **157 students**, **75%** of whom enrolled in **top-rated public institutions** in a variety of fields: engineering, management, medicine, architecture, social sciences and law, technical sciences, and preparatory classes for the Grandes Écoles. This program's success indicators all lean towards excellence with **more than half of the beneficiaries registered in engineering programs**. In addition, with the Phosboucraa Foundation's program, excellence applies to both men and women, as **more than 60% of the beneficiaries are girls, making excellence accessible to all**.

### A PROGRAM THAT ENHANCES THE SOUTHERN REGIONS' TALENT POOL

Since its launch in 2014, the Phosboucraa Foundation's Excellence Scholarship Program has uncovered exceptional talent. The **2017 and 2018** cohorts gave the Southern regions their first scholarship recipient admitted for a **double degree at the École Polytechnique X** de l'Université de Paris-Saclay, the first top-ranked scholarship recipient in the **Concours National Commun for physical and engineering sciences**, the first **certified dentist**, who conducted an **epidemiological study in the province of Laayoune** for his thesis, and, lastly, the first female scholarship recipient to complete an **exchange semester** in South Korea.

Whether they are from Laayoune, Oued Ed-Dahab, Sidi Ifni, Tan-Tan, Tarfaya, Aousserd, Assa-Zag, Smara, Boujdour, or Dakhla, the **157 beneficiaries** of the Phosboucraa Foundation's Excellence Scholarship Program are all key participants in the Southern regions' quest for excellence. This exceptional pool of talent at the service of the Southern regions will deliver results for a long time to come. The Phosboucraa Foundation, together with the Fondation Marocaine de l'Étudiant, will continue to support the beneficiaries of its Excellence Scholarship Program until 2022, particularly those in long academic curriculums such as medicine, when the last scholarship recipients will graduate.



## ABOUT THE PHOSBOUCRAA FOUNDATION

Created in May 2014, the Phosboucraa Foundation supports OCP Group's social and community involvement, and in particular its Phosboucraa subsidiary operating in the three Southern regions. Its mission consists in defining and implementing development projects with a participatory approach involving concerted action with the Southern regions' communities, and associative and institutional contributors. Its main objective is to contribute to the Southern regions' human development through programs benefitting all communities, starting with agricultural development and environmental sustainability, social development, including education and health, entrepreneurship support, promotion of culture and sports, and urban planning.

Considered as the key element in the three Southern regions' development, education is at the heart of the Phosboucraa Foundation's social development program. In this field, the Phosboucraa Foundation's many achievements cover various aspects, ranging from fighting against dropping out of school, implementing school guidance counseling campaigns, strengthening linguistic capacities, promoting digital inclusion, developing personal growth, awarding scholarships, etc.

### **On the education aspect alone, the Foundation can boast of:**

- **280** students benefiting from the program to fight dropping out of school (75% integration rate);
- **14** school caravans dedicated to guidance counselling;
- **161** teachers benefiting from pedagogical skills development;
- **13,000** students benefiting from the life skills education program (including 2,000 directly);
- **157** Excellence Scholarships awarded;
- **5** merit-based scholarships awarded to medical students;
- **2** learning centers (1 in Laayoune and 1 in Dakhla) helping more than 11,000 beneficiaries;
- **9,000** students to be introduced to coding by 2019 in the three Southern regions.

## ABOUT THE FONDATION MAROCAINE DE L'ÉTUDIANT

A non-profit association recognized as a public interest organization, the Fondation Marocaine de l'Étudiant's mission is to help the most brilliant high school graduates from Morocco's underprivileged communities to pursue studies in top-ranked, private and/or public higher education and professional institutions, and to support them until they start their professional careers.

### The Foundation in numbers

- Created in 2001;
- Recognized as a public interest organization in 2013;
- Nearly 1,350 beneficiaries;
- 61% of the scholarship recipients are girls;
- 700 beneficiaries have now graduated and are active on the labor market;
- 89% beneficiary employability rate;
- Over 120 partner universities and higher education institutions;
- 100 partner companies, more than 500 individual donors;
- 200 volunteer executives and business leaders: tutors or mentors of FME beneficiaries.