



**Remarks of Rev. Fr. Talal Hachem  
President of USEK  
Ribbon-Cutting of the Careers students Office  
March 5, 2024**

Dear distinguished guests, faculty members, students, and friends,

- It gives me a great pleasure to be welcoming you all today at USEK for the ribbon cutting of our Career's Services Office, that was made possible through the generous support of the HECD program funded by the USAID.
- In January 2020, USEK joined the HECD program.
  - o Since then, along with the HECD team, we've been through a lot.
  - o Needless to mention the circumstances that the country has been through during the implementation of the project.
    - However, instead of hindering the project's results, these circumstances provided many opportunities.
    - And consequently, the project was responding to an urgent need which is to prepare the ground for our students to secure employment in an ever-evolving job market at both the global and local levels.
- Therefore, several activities have been conducted, and I was informed by the team that these various activities, and here we are talking about field assessments, training workshops, course, focus group meetings, networking ..., these activities had **one focus** which is our students.
- And today, launching our CSO represents also a significant milestone in our commitment **to providing our students, once more, with the resources and opportunities** they need to succeed in their future careers.
- It also underscores USEK's dedication to fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and professional development among our students.



- And we all know that our work through the CSO will go beyond building soft and hard skills, and beyond guiding our students and connecting them with industry professionals; As a matter of fact, through the HECD Program, **we are not simply building career centers, but we are rather building a mindset and a future.**
- I would like to express my deepest gratitude to USAID represented today by the Mission Director, Julie Southfield, and the EDC represented also by Bill Potter, and to the whole HECD team (Wael, Lubna, Sana), for their partnership and investment in our university's mission to prepare our students for success in the global workforce.
- I am confident that our CSO will become **a beacon of opportunity and inspiration for our students, guiding them towards fulfilling and rewarding careers.**
- Finally, I encourage all of our students to take full advantage of the resources available to them and to embrace the journey of self-discovery and growth that lies ahead.
- Thank you all once again and I hope through the CSO, we would be shaping the future of our students and empowering them to reach new heights of success.