

# Khouri Markos



The opportunity to complete a practicum in the United Arab Emirates will always highlight my experience in the SAHE program! My supervisor in the UAE, the Dean of Student Services at the University of Dubai is a SAHE alum. As a result, I was able to apply concepts learned in the CSU/SAHE program to my work in student life and development at the University of Dubai.

Experiencing firsthand the work environment and culture of Dubai was eye opening and truly transforming in terms of my own growth and global awareness. The experience was a constant adventure and allowed me to extend far beyond my comfort zone– the key to a successful learning experience. On a daily basis, I learned lessons in cross cultural communication, cultural differences, and cultural perceptions.

What I loved most about being in Dubai was the multicultural and metropolitan atmosphere that exists and draws people from all over the world. The geographical diversity represented in this fascinating city provided me with the opportunity to learn from people all over the globe, including Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq, India, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Kenya (to name a few)!

Completing a practicum in this vibrant area of the Middle East allowed me to see higher education from new perspectives including opportunities that exist, areas where development is needed, and the extent to which the culture of the region impacts daily decisions. It also confirmed for me that Americans must have more exposure to this hospitable and misunderstood region. I had the opportunity to meet wonderful students, staff, and co-workers who will remain in my memories for years to come and “inshallah”, one day I will return!