



Bashaer Mahdi Gawad

As a wife, mother, student, and art teacher, 28-year-old Bashaer knows how important it is to make the most of her time—and she's good at thinking of creative ways to do it.

Bashaer has been a certified teacher at Belad Elementary School for the past eight years, where she teaches courses in drawing, sewing, and handicrafts. On the side, she sets up specialty galleries to showcase drawings, etchings, and handicrafts—for which she has received several honorary certifications. Within her career, however, Bashaer sees room for improvement, which she is making into a reality by learning IT and professional development skills through the WIT training program.

Bashaer isn't the only member of her family interested in computers; her husband and two brothers also work in computer communications and engineering. But Bashaer will use her newly-acquired skills from the WIT training program in an entirely different way: She wants to use computer technology to improve various aspects of her art lessons. PowerPoint, she says, is extremely useful for "teaching that sustains the students' attention and draws them into the lessons." And on an administrative level, she'll use her new database skills to track classroom attendance, grades, and student information; and to manage education syllabi on the computer. Bashaer is now one of two teachers at the school trained in computer and database skills, and she hopes this number will increase.

In the meantime, Bashaer is continuing her own education as a second-level student in the College of Open Education. In her artistic and professional pursuits, she is prepared to use her new computer skills to open doors for herself and her students.

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