

# FY 2011 DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXCHANGE PROGRAM FUNDING

## LEGISLATIVE GOAL

- **Fund State Department educational and cultural exchanges at \$675 million in FY 2011**, \$41.8 million over the FY11 request of \$633.2 million and \$40 million over the FY10 level of \$635 million

## RATIONALE

- Americans must be better prepared to live in a global economy and an interdependent world. Exchange programs provide that preparation. Exchanges bring resources to U.S. communities. And exchanges change minds.
- The requested increase to \$675 million is a modest increment that aligns with the overall State Department budget increase of 5.2 per cent. Because of a surplus of highly qualified applicants for State's very competitive programs, State will be able to quickly target funds to its highest priority goals. A funding increase will permit more Americans to gain expertise through substantive overseas experiences.

## BACKGROUND

The U.S. exchange community appreciates the bipartisan Congressional support exchanges enjoy and the recognition that exchanges are an especially effective smart power tool as the United States deals with economic uncertainty, ongoing threats to national security, and a tarnished image overseas. **Fifty-eight Senators and 189 Representatives pledged their support for a robust U.S. International Affairs budget in December 2009 letters to the Obama Administration.**

## OPPORTUNITIES

Congress has recognized that citizen diplomacy, international educational exchanges, and development assistance are critical elements for our economic growth and national security. State Department exchange programs offer extraordinary opportunities to U.S. citizens and institutions and engage them in shaping our country's image and sharing our values, ideals, and ingenuity.

- **EXCHANGES BUILD GLOBAL COOPERATION:** State Department exchange programs foster collaboration on critical issues such as global economics, national security, trade, energy, climate change, terrorism, and nuclear nonproliferation.
- **EXCHANGES BRING RESOURCES AND JOBS TO U.S. COMMUNITIES:** The majority of the State Department exchanges budget is spent on U.S. participants or in the United States. International participants also spend substantial personal funds here. And the exchange appropriation leverages other contributions, including university tuition waivers and volunteering by Americans.
- **EXCHANGES CHANGE MINDS:** State Department evaluations repeatedly show that foreign exchange participants complete their programs with an improved impression of the United States and its people. U.S. ambassadors consistently rank exchange programs among the most useful catalysts for long-term political change, cooperation, and mutual understanding. A Congressional Research Service review of 29 reports on public diplomacy revealed that the most common recommendation of these reports was to increase exchange funding.

## STUDENT AND SCHOLAR EXCHANGE

- The world-renowned **Fulbright Program** has provided scholarships for approximately 294,000 U.S. and international participants, chosen for outstanding academic achievement and leadership potential. Fulbright Alumni include Nobel Prize laureates, Pulitzer Prize winners, ambassadors, governors and senators, prime ministers, and heads of state.



- Alumni of the **Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship** and the **Global Undergraduate Exchange Program** occupy top positions in government, industry, and civil society across Eurasia, creating a network of leaders with positive views of the United States.
- With a \$12.9 million appropriation, **Overseas Student Advising Centers** contribute to an annual \$14.5 billion trade surplus generated by foreign students in the United States. Foreign students enrich and enliven communities and classrooms throughout the country and take a first-class education home where they assume positions of leadership.
- The **Gilman International Scholarship Program**, funded at \$10.42 million in FY 2010, expands study abroad opportunities for American undergraduate students receiving Pell grants. Last year, students filed more than 4,100 applications for 1,700 awards. The Department has used programs such as Fulbright, Gilman, and the **Critical Language Summer Institutes** to increase U.S. capacity in Arabic, Farsi, Russian, and the languages of South, Central, East, and Southeast Asia.

#### *TEACHER EXCHANGE*

- Teacher exchanges prepare educators to shape young people into positive agents of change. Participants bring interactive teaching practices to their students and colleagues, building the critical thinking skills and analytical approach that foster good citizenship. A typical participant in the **Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program**, the **Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program**, the **International Leadership in Education Program**, or the **Language, Technology, Math, and Science Program** can be expected to influence at least 1,000 students and 50 colleagues during his or her career, creating a powerful multiplier effect.
- Global competitiveness begins with school education, including foreign language education. **The Teachers of Critical Language and Intensive Summer Language Institutes Programs** expand schools' abilities to teach Chinese and Arabic, placing experienced foreign teachers from China and Egypt in American K-12 schools and sending U.S. foreign language practitioners overseas for important professional development.

#### *PROFESSIONAL AND CITIZEN EXCHANGE*

- More than 250 current and former heads of government and state, and many other distinguished world leaders in government and the private sector have participated in the **International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP)**. Participants include British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, and Mexican President Felipe de Jesús Calderón Hinojosa.
- **Sister Cities International** links more than 700 U.S. communities with 2,300 international cities in 135 countries around the globe. The Sister Cities citizen network represents more than 100 million people in the United States and millions more around the world.

#### *YOUTH EXCHANGE*

- High school exchanges have a consistent record of success in fostering attitudinal change, building lifelong relationships, and encouraging leadership aspirations. **The YES program** (focused on countries with significant Muslim communities), **FLEX** (Russia, Ukraine, and other Eurasian nations), **A-SMYLE** (Balkans), **Congress-Bundestag** (Germany), and **the new U.S.-Poland exchange** bring high school students to live with American families and attend American schools for an academic year. Developing outbound components to these programs, allowing American students similar experiences in high priority countries, would dramatically enhance the impact of these already successful efforts.
- **The National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y)** is a major initiative that will launch young Americans on innovative overseas immersion programs that focus on developing fluency in critical languages - including Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, Farsi, Hindi, Korean, Russian, and Turkish.