

2006 HIGHLIGHTS



Fulbright New Century Scholars on Global Higher Education

Fulbright New Century Scholars (NCS) presented the results of their year-long transnational and cross-cultural evaluation of challenges facing globalized higher education at a Symposium in Paris in October, co-hosted by UNESCO and the Franco-American Commission for Educational Exchange. The NCS Scholars presented key findings, recommendations, and specific case studies at the Symposium, and also made recommendations to international higher education bodies, governments and institutions of higher learning around the globe.

Developing Global Leaders

Now in its seventh year, the Goldman Sachs Global Leaders Program (GSGLP) counts 750 extremely accomplished university students and young professionals from more than 40 countries as alumni. The Goldman Sachs Foundation and IIE expanded the program this year to include an additional 50 Global Leaders from China and India. Increased funding for Social Entrepreneurship grants will allow more alumni to realize their global visions. Thirty-two projects involving 42 GSGLP alumni have been funded to date.

Additional Funds for IFP

In April 2006, Ford Foundation President Susan Berresford announced a new commitment of \$75 million to the International Fellowships Program, which works to broaden access to advanced study for people from some of the world's poorest communities and countries. A total of 4,300 Fellows will receive support by the end of the program.



Advancing Peace in the Middle East

At a reception in Tel Aviv-Yaffo in June, IIE President Allan Goodman and IIE Trustee Victor J. Goldberg joined U.S. Ambassador to Israel Richard Jones in presenting the second annual Victor J. Goldberg IIE Prize for Peace in the Middle East to the co-founders of the Arab-Jewish Community Center in Yaffo. The award recognized Ibrahim Abu Shindi and Hadas Kaplan for their pioneering work in creating a community organization that works to promote inter-cultural dialogue, co-existence, and community empowerment in its mixed Jewish and Arab Israeli neighborhood.

Keeping America's Doors Open to International Students

Throughout the year, IIE has worked to promote the U.S. as a destination for higher education, provide resources for students on identifying and funding U.S. study opportunities, and help train the Consular Officers at the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service Institute.



Building a Global Network

The Alcoa Foundation convened academic, NGO, government and business leaders to launch the Alcoa Foundation Global Conservation and Sustainability Network. Participants shared research and explored new opportunities for collaboration on climate change, conservation, and sustainability. At the conference, Alcoa President and CEO Alain Belda, Heinz Center President Thomas Lovejoy, and Keynote Speaker Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Laureate in Economics and a Fulbright alumnus, spoke with Washington Post reporter Juliet Eilperin about the need for concerted action and informed leadership on issues surrounding conservation and sustainable development.

Educational Advising Around the World

The U.S. State Department, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) awarded IIE the Regional Educational Advising Coordinator (REAC) program beginning in October 2006. On behalf of ECA, ten staff members, divided into eight world regions, develop and coordinate a worldwide network of 450 EducationUSA advising centers, which are the central resource for information about U.S. study opportunities. IIE also continues to operate EducationUSA advising centers in Bangkok, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Hong Kong, Oaxaca and Mexico City.

Iran Opportunities Fund

IIE Trustee Maryam Ansary and several IIE donors spearheaded a new Iran Opportunities Fund this year, in an effort to involve the Iranian community in the U.S. in improving cultural and educational relations between Iran and the United States. This group has hosted events and raised support for IIE's Scholar Rescue Fund as well as the Persian Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program, a public-private partnership which brings native Persian language speakers to U.S. campuses to help teach language courses for American students.



Celebrating Our History of Scholar Rescue: Budapest 1956 and 2006

IIE/Europe worked with the Embassy of the United States in Hungary and other foreign embassies and international organizations to help organize a two-day conference entitled "1956 and Hungary: The Memory of Eyewitnesses – In Search of Freedom and Democracy" to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian revolution of 1956. At that time, IIE assisted over 1,000 refugee students fleeing Hungary, in an effort that was a precursor to today's IIE Scholar Rescue Fund.



Building Bridges Between the U.S. and Asia

At the 2006 Gala, IIE honored the Freeman Foundation with its Stephen P. Duggan Award for Mutual Understanding. Doreen and Houghton Freeman (left and second from right) accepted the award, which recognized the Freeman Foundation's longstanding partnership with IIE to send U.S. students to Asia and to help Asian students in the United States, funding programs such as the Freeman Awards for Study in Asia and the Asia Higher Education Loan Program.

Strengthening Higher Education in Africa

In 2006, a Ford Foundation grant to IIE launched the Africa Higher Education Collaborative (AHEC), a partnership between the Ford Foundation Regional Office in Cairo, IIE's Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) in Washington D.C., and IIE's Regional Center for Leadership Excellence in Cairo. Advised by a council of higher education experts from Africa, this cooperative effort will bring together education leaders from Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa to share information and research to strengthen Africa's higher education infrastructure.



Inspiring Teachers to Bring International Themes to U.S. Classrooms

In September, IIE presented Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A. with its Opening Minds Corporate Leadership Award in recognition of the company's long-time commitment to increasing U.S. teachers' awareness of international and environmental issues. In its ninth year, the Toyota International Teacher Program expanded to include study visits to the Galapagos and Costa Rica as well as Japan, and launched a new Toyota Environmental Forum for Educators to showcase best practices for teaching environmental issues.

Providing Access and Opportunity to Women in the Middle East

The Middle East Partnership Initiative of the U.S. Department of State made a grant to IIE to expand the Women in Technology program to five additional countries in the Middle East. IIE West Coast implements this public-private partnership created to empower women and expand their participation in the workforce, leveraging relationships within the business community to involve private sector leaders. With a \$1.6 million budget for 2006, WIT now operates in Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.



FOCUS ON STRATEGIC LANGUAGES

In January 2006, President Bush launched the National Security Language Initiative (NSLI) to strengthen national security and prosperity in the 21st century through strategic language learning. Foreign language skills are essential to engaging foreign governments and peoples, especially in critical world regions, to encourage reform, promote understanding and convey respect for other cultures. NSLI, a joint initiative of the Secretaries of Education, State, and Defense, and the Director of National Intelligence, will dramatically increase the number of Americans learning critical need foreign languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Hindi, Farsi and others through new and expanded programs from kindergarten through university and into the workforce.

The Fulbright Student Program plays a key role in the NSLI programs sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State. 150 U.S. Fulbright Students will receive Critical Language Enhancement Awards to undertake pre-grant in-country language training in the Middle East, and South, Central and East Asia. In addition, 350 Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants from 46 countries will teach their native languages at universities, colleges and high schools all across the United States.

The Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarships, also sponsored by ECA, allow students to study a critical need language in credit-bearing college programs abroad from four weeks to one year.

The Language Flagship, a key component of the U.S. Department of Defense's National Security Education Program administered by IIE, provides grants to U.S. universities to develop advanced level programs in six critical languages, including a ground-breaking effort by the University of Oregon and the Portland Public Schools to design a fully articulated K-16 program in Chinese. NSEP's Boren Scholarships and Fellowships also provide support for undergraduate and graduate students to learn strategic languages abroad.