

# COALITION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

*Promoting U.S. Global Competence*

September 14, 2012

The Honorable Arne Duncan  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

The Honorable Jeffrey Zients  
Acting Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Secretary Duncan and Acting Director Zients,

As you consider the President's FY 2014 education budget priorities, the undersigned organizations of the Coalition for International Education call your attention to an urgent education issue that will affect the nation's security and economic vitality for generations to come: **Restoring the Department of Education's International Education and Foreign Language Studies programs of the Higher Education Act, Title VI and Fulbright-Hays.**

The Coalition consists of more than 30 national higher education organizations representing the nation's 3,300 colleges and universities, and more than 18 million students.

As you know, these programs sustained a sudden and dramatic \$50 million or 40% cut in the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution from their FY 2010 level of \$126 million. This cut was followed by an additional \$1.6 million reduction in FY 2012, pushing back total funding more than a decade to \$74 million. In spite of fiscal constraints, the Administration's FY 2013 budget proposal to restore \$1.7 million to Title VI and level-fund Fulbright-Hays for a total of \$75.5 million was a step in the right direction. We also support the Senate Appropriations Committee's FY 2013 bill, which adopted the Administration's proposal in this respect.

**We believe that FY 2014 budget presents an opportunity for the Administration to renew its commitment to these modestly funded programs, now representing a mere 0.1% of the Department's discretionary budget. We strongly urge that the FY 2014 Administration's request begin with a partial but robust restoration of funding to \$109.96 million: \$100.25 million for Title VI and \$9.71 million for Fulbright-Hays.**

**The timing of our recommendation is critical.** The FY 2014 budget will fund the next 4-year competitions for the Title VI world area, language and international business centers, which have been cut severely. The four center programs, together with other Title VI/Fulbright-Hays programs, serve as the foundation for our nation's international and foreign language education system. Our suggested increase would allow full restoration of the Title VI center programs and the Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language program, as well as partial

restoration for several complementary programs. Without restoration, the number of centers in the U.S. will decline significantly, thereby reducing the reach of Title VI.

Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs are the federal government's most comprehensive for improving our international and foreign language capabilities *throughout* the educational pipeline. Unlike other federal agency programs, Title VI and Fulbright-Hays support education and research on all world areas, multiple disciplines and over 200 languages, and at all levels of education, thereby ensuring the nation's capacity to respond to new and unanticipated global challenges. Other federal programs, such as DOD's National Security Education Program (NSEP) and the Department of Commerce's National Export Initiative (NEI) each has a targeted focus that depends on the infrastructure and educational resources that Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs develop and sustain. For example, 18 out of 22 NSEP grants are located at institutions of higher education also having Title VI centers in the same world areas. The Department of Commerce works with Title VI centers to help expand the global knowledge base of U.S. companies and managers for increasing exports.

Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs have a 50-year plus history of results. Just in the decade following 9/11, Congressional enhancements enabled Title VI grantees to increase foreign language and area training capacity by roughly 90% in targeted areas of national need. Priority language enrollments increased by over 54,000, and international business enrollments by over 200,000. Total placements in major employment sectors increased by over 60%. From ambassadors to university presidents, to Presidential advisors and Cabinet officials, Title VI beneficiaries also serve in a wide variety of positions in education, business, government, and NGOs such as the—

- Congressional Research Service (CRS) Specialist in International Security, providing analytical support to Members and staff to help frame national security debates, and the lead CRS expert on strategy and military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq;
- National Security Council Director for Russia and Central Asia;
- CIA operative who played a critical role in the battle at Qala-I Janghi Prison during the early stages of the Afghanistan war;
- USAID/Bureau for Food Security Deputy Assistant Administrator, providing oversees technical and regional expertise for improving food security and reducing persistent rural poverty;
- Microsoft Learning Product Manager who uses international business skills (market access, communication, analysis, strategy) and language/cultural competencies in both emerging and developed markets;
- Medical doctor who established an NGO in Guatemala providing indigenous populations healthcare in their own Mayan language, and at home uses Spanish in treating non-English speaking immigrants in local Boston hospitals;
- Assistant Professor of Political Science (African studies) at Morehouse College; and
- Minneapolis middle school Arabic teacher.

Continuation of the cuts for three years is severely eroding a solid infrastructure built over many decades, as federal funding reductions will not be replaced with non-federal funds on a permanent basis. Prolonging the losses will damage our long-term national security and global economic capabilities by reducing—and in some cases eliminating—the production of our next generation of international experts and of a globally competent workforce, just when the nation faces severe shortfalls.

**Now is an opportune time to renew the Department's commitment to these programs.** We appreciate your leadership in restoring this modest Department of Education investment that is so vital to America's wellbeing. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Submitted by the following organizations:

African Studies Association  
Alliance for International Educational and Cultural Exchange  
American Association of Community Colleges  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities  
American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS  
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages  
American Council on Education  
American Political Science Association  
American University of Beirut  
Association of American Universities  
Association of International Education Administrators  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association for Asian Studies  
Association for International Business Education and Research  
Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Council of American Overseas Research Centers  
Council of Directors of National Foreign Language Resource Centers  
Council of Directors of National Resource Centers  
Council of Graduate Schools  
The Forum on Education Abroad  
Joint National Committee for Languages  
Latin American Studies Association  
Middle East Studies Association  
Modern Language Association  
NAFSA: Association of International Educators  
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
National Humanities Alliance  
North American Small Business International Trade Educators Association  
Social Science Research Council

cc: Deputy Secretary Tony Miller  
Undersecretary Martha Kanter  
Acting Assistant Secretary David Bergeron  
Assistant Secretary Carmel Martin  
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary Sylvia Crowder  
Director of International Affairs Maureen McLaughlin  
OMB Deputy Associate Director Kathryn Stack  
Assistant to the President for Education Roberto Rodriguez, WH DPC  
Senior Advisor for Education Zakiya Smith, WH DPC