INTRODUCTION

AAU URGES CONGRESS TO PROVIDE $177 MILLION FOR DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS, AN INCREASE OF $51 MILLION OVER FY10 FUNDING

Specifically, AAU urges Congress to appropriate $153.8 million for Title VI programs, $19.8 million for the Fulbright-Hays Program, and $3.2 million for the Institute of International Public Policy. The FY11 Department of Education budget would flat-fund these programs.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION IS CRITICAL TO MEETING 21ST CENTURY GLOBAL CHALLENGES

AAU supports the Department of Education’s Title VI International Education and Fulbright-Hays programs, created 50 years ago in response to the Cold War and the launch of Sputnik. These programs are designed to strengthen foreign language and world studies, expand overseas teaching and research programs, strengthen doctoral research and training grants for faculty, better train specialists, and educate the public about world cultures. Title VI-and IIPP supports activities based largely in the U.S., while Fulbright-Hays supports overseas opportunities. These programs increase the capacity of U.S. citizens in foreign language and international studies in order to meet the global challenges that confront our nation.

For Title VI, AAU particularly supports additional funding for the Title VI Parts A and B that fund critical components of our international education infrastructure. This includes the National Resource Centers (NRCs) and Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships, as well general research funding in foreign language and area studies.

The NRCs and the companion FLAS Fellowships enable students from around the country to study modern languages, particularly less-commonly taught languages in regions of special importance to the nation. The centers operate as a national resource for teaching of modern foreign languages, research and training in international studies; and outreach to overseas institutions.

The budget proposes a reduction of 66 fellowships over the two-year funding period, which equates to 21%, or 494, fewer fellowships compared to the FLAS high point in FY1967. At a time when Americans need to know more not less about other nations and cultures, the number of fellowships should be going up, not down.