



January 24, 2013

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



Dear Mr. Secretary:

As associations that represent the vast majority of colleges and universities in the United States, we write to thank you for the Department's renewed focus on the importance of international education, which is detailed in the *Succeeding Globally Through International Education and Engagement 2012-2016* International Strategy report. We agree that global competencies should be a goal for every student and our member colleges and universities are committed to achieving that goal.



While we are encouraged by the Department's renewed focus on these issues, we are also surprised and disappointed that a report that details the next four years of the Department's international education strategy makes scant mention of its largest and most successful international education programs, Title VI/Fulbright Hays. We understand the challenging budgetary environment in which the Department now operates. However, we also believe that the need for in-depth international education and foreign-language training is more important now than ever before, particularly with documented shortages of language-proficient workers. The Title VI/Fulbright Hays programs are the federal government's most comprehensive efforts to support instruction in less-commonly taught languages, particularly from regions of national strategic importance; research issues important to our national security; and provide global learning experiences for American students.



We are concerned that the Department may view the objectives of Title VI/Fulbright Hays programs and the goal to extend global competencies to a greater number of students as somehow mutually exclusive rather than interconnected as a multilayered plan. We strongly believe that a crucial component of global competency is developing a deep knowledge and expertise in foreign language and culture, which Title VI/Fulbright Hays provides. The suite of Title VI programs develops U.S. experts capable of ensuring that our nation retains capacity in less commonly taught languages. Their continued funding ensures that this capacity is passed to new generations of students.



In addition to maintaining critical expertise, the National Resource Centers and Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships provide students across the country with opportunities to study world areas and foreign languages. The research and expertise produced at National Resource Centers extend benefits beyond the borders of individual campuses. For example, Indiana University, through a Title VI Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language grant, has partnered with the 30 community colleges within Indiana's Ivy Tech system to internationalize the system's curriculum, offer a Global Learning Certificate, and develop Arabic language courses.



Additionally, Title VI Centers have leveraged their funding to engage K-12 partners to inspire students to pursue studies in language and culture. For example, The Ohio State University's (OSU) Center for African Studies has developed a Model African Union simulation program in collaboration with Columbus International High School. OSU African students, African community members and even a visiting African Union diplomat helped mentor 80 students in eight high schools to deepen their knowledge and understanding of their assigned countries' political, economic and social issues and then apply their knowledge in negotiating solutions within the model African Union. These are just two examples of the ways in which universities are using Title VI/Fulbright Hays funding to contribute to the goal of extending global competencies to all students.

We look forward to further discussing the Department's international education strategy and how Title VI/Fulbright Hays programs serve a critical role in achieving the Department's goal.

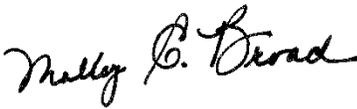
Sincerely,



Walter G. Bumphus
President
American Association of Community Colleges



Muriel A. Howard
President
American Association of State Colleges and Universities



Molly Corbett Broad
President
American Council on Education



Hunter R. Rawlings III
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