

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION: INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

AAU URGES CONGRESS TO PROVIDE AT LEAST \$76 MILLION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS IN FY15

The Department of Education's Title VI/Fulbright-Hays programs are the federal government's most comprehensive programs for developing national capacity in international and foreign language education, supporting instruction in less-commonly taught languages, particularly from regions of national strategic importance; researching issues of importance to our national security; and providing global learning experiences valuable in the workplace for American students. These programs educate the individuals whose abilities help ensure the successful international engagement of the U.S. education, government, and business sectors.

As a result of steep cuts in FY11, universities have been forced to eliminate international programs, classes in lesscommonly taught languages, and other foreign language and area studies opportunities for students, such as graduate fellowships. Title VI programs play a critical role in supporting our nation's long-term national security, global leadership, and economic competitiveness. It is our goal to eventually restore overall Title VI funding to its historic levels. In particular, rebuilding the number of National Resource Centers, which historically have played a vital role in U.S. diplomacy, is critical in maintaining a high level of global engagement in the future. The nation needs a steady supply of graduates with expertise in less commonly taught languages, world areas, and trans-national trends.

IMPACT OF TITLE VI PROGRAMS ON THE NATION

Title VI National Resource Centers (NRC) and Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships provide students from around the country with world-class opportunities for intensive study of world areas and foreign languages, particularly less-commonly taught languages at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. In 2010-2011, 1.6 million students enrolled in language studies and area studies courses offered by the 125 NRCs nationwide.

In addition to supporting deep expertise in critical languages and regions, NRCs spend provide significant outreach to K-16 students and teachers, including under-represented populations. In the 2010-2011 school year alone, the centers conducted more than 9,000 outreach activities, ranging from faculty-led workshops for teachers to educational workbooks, maps, and articles for students. This outreach plays an important role in broadening global competencies and exposing students of all ages to different cultures and views of the world.

These and other Title VI programs have created an unrivalled technical training system producing linguistically proficient, area-savvy graduates who go on to successful careers in government, military, academia, and the private sector. These graduates educate thousands of students, teachers, policy makers, military and diplomatic officials, faculty, and the general public over the course of their careers, as well as engage in diplomatic missions in strategic areas of importance to the nation.

AAU universities currently operate 86 National Resource Centers and 89 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships.

While it is clear that under current diminished Title VI funding levels universities are not able to accomplish as much as they would otherwise, these programs are reaching far beyond campus boundaries to produce globally competent graduates. *February 2015*