

COALITION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Promoting U.S. Global Competence

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS: INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDIES

*Talking Points for Letters to the U.S. Congress on
Continued FY 2011 and FY 2012 Funding*

Why the Federal Investment is Critical

- We understand the tremendous pressures on the federal budget and the difficult decisions Congress faces on FY 2011 spending, and the upcoming FY 2012 deliberations.
- In making these tough choices, we believe Congress should take into consideration **the federal-higher education partnership** that ensures our nation's human resource capacity and knowledge critical for successful U.S. global engagement in an increasingly complex and challenging world.
- The nation's success in the 21st century depends on Americans with global competence**, including foreign language skills and the ability to understand and function in different cultural environments. **However, the number of Americans with such expertise and skills does not match our strategic needs at home or abroad.**
- "A pervasive lack of knowledge about foreign cultures and foreign languages in this country threatens the security of the United States as well as its ability to compete in the global marketplace and produce an informed citizenry."* (National Academies of Sciences 2007)
- The U.S. Department of Education's HEA-Title VI, Fulbright-Hays and the K-12 Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) are **the federal government's most comprehensive investment** in creating and maintaining the nation's global competence needed for national security, defense, foreign policy, economic competitiveness, and mutual understanding.
- Title VI/FH/FLAP programs ensure funding is available to meet national needs that are not priorities of individual states and/or local districts. **Most of these programs would not exist without federal support, especially at a time when state and local governments, and institutions of higher education also are financially strapped.**

What These Programs Do

- The Title VI/FH programs **support activities to improve our capabilities throughout the educational pipeline**, from K-12 outreach through graduate education and advanced research, with emphasis on the less commonly-taught languages and areas of the world. Title VI largely supports the domestic side of training and research, while Fulbright-Hays supports essential, complementary overseas training and research. FLAP supports K-12 language programs, including K-12/higher education partnerships for languages deemed critical to national security.
- Title VI/FH provides the major, and often the only, source of **national expertise and research on non-European countries and their languages.**

•Title VI institutions account for 3% of all colleges and universities that offer language instruction, but 21% of undergraduate enrollment and 56% of graduate enrollment in the **less commonly taught languages**. For the **least commonly languages**, Title VI institutions account for roughly 49% of undergraduate and 78% of graduate enrollments.

•Title VI grantees **provide training and consultation for foreign language and area staff in many government agencies**. For example, the U.S. Army Foreign Area Officer (FAO) Program sends its officers to Title VI centers for their M.A. in language and area studies training and has done so since the inception of the FAO program three decades ago.

•Title VI/FH programs support **advanced research** abroad in international, area and language studies that **otherwise would have few or no other funding sources**.

•Title VI/FH grantees provide access to international knowledge to other institutions of higher education, government, business, K-12 and the public through web resources, seminars, training and other means. Many educators, government agencies, nonprofit groups and corporations depend on these resources. **Without Title VI/FH funding, outreach of expertise and resources would disappear**.

•Title VI programs support the development and maintenance of **world class library resources** in international, area and foreign language studies—using modern technologies for accessibility—**that exist no where else in the world**.

•Title VI supports two important programs that **internationalize business education, train Americans for the global workplace, and help U.S. small and mid-size businesses engage emerging markets**.

- By providing training and expertise to enable small and mid-sized U.S. business to increase exports, Title VI activities support job creation in America and reduction of the U.S. trade deficit. Grantees work closely with the U.S. Department of Commerce and with the local District Export Councils on export development.
- Title VI grantees train American managers to operate in the global marketplace. Major U.S. competitors are experienced globally and more sophisticated operating in foreign cultural and business environments.
- Before these programs were established, few business education programs in the U.S. incorporated a global dimension.

•Title VI/FH programs **provide opportunity and access** to all types of institutions of higher education, including **minority-serving institutions of higher education**, community colleges, and small and medium-sized 4-year institutions. Training, fellowship, scholarship and study abroad opportunities are provided to students, faculty, K-12 teachers and administrators.

• **A few examples of Title VI and/or FH beneficiaries:**

Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense;
John Abizaid, former Commander, US Central Command in Iraq;
James Collins, former U.S. Ambassador to Russia;
Aaron David Miller, former State Department official and advisor to six Secretaries of State;
Michele Dunne, former State Department and White House National Security Council official;
Anthony Shadid, Pulitzer prize-winning journalist at *The Washington Post*;
Elizabeth Economy, Director for Asian Studies, Council on Foreign Relations;
Michael Dunne, Managing Director for China, J.D. Power & Associates.