

Professional Fellows Program



The **Professional Fellows Program** brings emerging leaders from around the world to the United States for intensive short-term fellowships designed to broaden their professional expertise. The Fellows are placed in non-profit organizations, private sector businesses, and government offices across the country to learn first-hand how issues in their fields are addressed in the United States. While deepening their understanding of American society, the visiting participants also build a broad network made up of both their new American colleagues and the other visiting Fellows.

Thousands of Americans host, work with, and learn from the foreign Fellows visiting the United States. The second phase of the Professional Fellows Program sends American participants overseas for follow-on programs conducted with the foreign Fellows. Over the course of the past two years, more than 1,000 foreign and American Fellows have participated in the Professional Fellows Program.

→ 2013 Programs

In 2013, an estimated 460 Fellows from 51 countries will come in the spring and the fall for programs focusing on **economic empowerment**, **journalism**, and the **legislative process and governance**. In addition, approximately 330 American Fellows will be selected for follow-on programs overseas where they will spend time in the workplaces and communities of their foreign counterparts.

At the end of each U.S.-based program, the visiting Fellows will gather in Washington, DC for a closing Professional Fellows Congress. The Congress provides a forum for the participants to compare and contrast their experiences in the United States and to discuss best practices with other young leaders in their fields.

In surveys taken one year after their participation in the Professional Fellows Program, participants report that:

- 95% introduced new ideas & knowledge into their workplace
- 59% organized or initiated new activities or projects in their communities
- 55% assumed a leadership role or position in their community
- 52% introduced new policies or procedures in their place of work
- 33% established a new organization in their community
- 27% wrote newspaper articles, including editorials and opinion pieces
- 25% proposed, wrote, and/or passed a new law



PROFESSIONAL
FELLOWS

<http://exchanges.state.gov/citizens/profs.html>

*connecting people,
creating understanding*
exchanges.state.gov

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) supports people-to-people exchange programs between the United States and more than 160 countries. Our programs foster mutual understanding among students, educators, artists, athletes, and emerging leaders in various professions. Alumni comprise more than one million people worldwide and have included more than 50 Nobel Laureates and more than 350 heads of state.