



For Immediate Release

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Universities Win *100,000 Strong in the Americas* Funding for Study Abroad in Health

WASHINGTON, December 16, 2014: Today the U.S. Department of State, Partners of the Americas and NAFSA: Association of International Educators announced seven new winners of *100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund* grants for study abroad. This is the fifth group of higher education institution winners to receive Innovation Fund grants this year.

The goal of 100,000 Strong in the Americas, President Obama's signature education initiative in the Western Hemisphere, is to increase the number of U.S. students studying in the Western Hemisphere to 100,000, and the number of Western Hemisphere students studying in the United States to 100,000 by the year 2020. The initiative is aimed at enhancing hemispheric competitiveness, at increasing prosperity, and at better preparing a globally aware workforce.

The objective of the current competition, generously supported by the Coca-Cola Foundation, is to promote study abroad in health and nutrition in the Western Hemisphere, with a focus on identifying solutions to help prevent and reduce obesity. The selected recipients will do this by conducting research on combating obesity linked behavior through physical activity and nutritional education, examining health beliefs and practices that contribute to greater risk of obesity, using technology to maximize culture awareness and education and other innovative means. The competition was open to higher education institutions in the US, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela.

The Innovation Fund awards promote transnational institutional partnerships rather than direct scholarships. The announced awards are \$25,000 each, and will leverage commitments from the selected universities to increase student mobility, address institutional barriers that prevent students from studying abroad, and promote health and nutrition in the Western Hemisphere. It is expected that more than 320 students will study abroad as a result of these seven grants.

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The Innovation Fund grants were awarded to:

Winner: University of North Alabama

Strategic Partner: *Universidad Ignacio de Loyola, Peru*

Title: *“Exercise and Nutritional Science: Promoting Study Abroad in Health and Nutrition”*

To: Focus on the impact of physical activity and proper nutrition in combating obesity linked with negative behavior choices. This is a multidisciplinary, research-oriented, field study abroad program involving students in exercise, nutritional science and culinary arts.

Winner: State University of New York at Oswego

Strategic Partners: *Faculdades Integradas de Patos, Brazil and SUNY Ulster, U.S.*

Title: *“Promoting Study Abroad Focusing on Health and Nutrition”*

To: Through a new collaboration, bring opportunities to a region with no previous connection to the United States and utilize technology to maximize cultural awareness and education while equalizing opportunity. Families and communities will be incorporated to provide a larger societal impact on obesity and other comorbid conditions through exercise and diet.

Winner: Northwestern University

Strategic Partners: *Universidad Panamericana, Mexico*

Title: *“Public Health in Mexico: A Collaborative and Comparative Framework for Learning”*

To: Create a robust learning community and bring students together in a research context and examine the growing problem of obesity in both Chicago and in Mexico City through a summer study abroad program.

Winner: Lamar University

Strategic Partner: *Universidad Veracruzana, Mexico*

Title: *“Exploring Trends and Disparities of Obesity and Exercise Practices through a Study Abroad, Service Learning, and Student Exchange Initiative in the Americas”*

To: Create and develop a partnership in Mexico for Lamar University. Students will conduct joint research in the U.S. and Mexico to identify health beliefs and practices that increase the risk for being overweight or obese at various ages, income levels, and ethnic backgrounds.

Winner: California State University, Monterey Bay

Strategic Partner: *Universidad Intercultural Maya Quintana Roo, Mexico
Millsaps College, Jackson, Mississippi, sites in the Yucatan, United States*

Title: *“Cultura Fuerte-Maya Sana”*

To: Foster a reciprocal interaction where students will learn health and nutrition needs assessment skills and provide a culturally-responsive Zumba course for Mayan communities in the Fundación Haciendas del Mundo Maya Network. It will also offer an opportunity for students to disseminate their experience in Salinas, California, “the agricultural heart of the U.S. and one of the most underserved U.S. urban centers.”

Winner: Arizona Board of Regents on behalf of Arizona State University

Strategic Partners: *Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education (ITESM), Mexico*

Title: “Engage Globally: Nutrition and Health Promotion Student Mobility to the Americas”

To: Create a continuing global engagement for students from ASU’s School of Nutrition and Health Promotion and ITESM’s Nutrition and Wellness degree programs, two programs that are not now actively sending students abroad.

Winner: Oregon Health and Science University

Strategic Partner: *Universidad de Guanajuato, Mexico*

Title: “Sister City Exchange: A Pilot Nursing Student Exchange between Oregon Health and Science University and University of Guanajuato with a Focus on Health and Nutrition”

To: Establish processes and structures for a new international student exchange in a field that traditionally has not studied abroad. Nursing students will participate in community assessments and activities focused on health and nutrition in the targeted communities.

The sixth competition of the Innovation Fund grants will launch on January 15, 2015. This new competition is sponsored by Santander Universities, a branch of Santander Bank, and will be open to higher education institutions in all countries in the Western Hemisphere region and to all fields of study. Learn more about the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund at www.100kstrongamericas.org.

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The 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund, a public-private collaboration of the White House, the U.S. Department of State, Partners of the Americas and NAFSA: Association of International Educators was announced by Secretary of State John Kerry in January 2014. Since then, 38 Innovation Fund grants have been awarded to teams of 109 higher educational institutions from 12 countries in the Western Hemisphere region.

The mission of **Partners of the Americas** is to connect people and organizations across borders to serve and to change lives through lasting partnerships. These partnerships create opportunity, foster understanding, and solve real-life problems. Inspired by President Kennedy and founded in 1964 under the Alliance for Progress, Partners is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization with international offices in Washington, DC. Learn more at www.partners.net or via Twitter [@partnersamerica](https://twitter.com/partnersamerica).

With nearly 10,000 members, **NAFSA: Association of International Educators** is the world's largest nonprofit professional association dedicated to international education. Learn more about our work at www.nafsa.org and www.connectingourworld.org and on Twitter at [@NAFSA](https://twitter.com/NAFSA) and [@ConnectOurWorld](https://twitter.com/ConnectOurWorld).

Follow the Innovation Fund and the overall initiative on Twitter with the hashtag #100KStrongAmericas.