



COMMUNITY COLLEGE INITIATIVES PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State is pleased to announce the Community College Initiatives Program. This international educational exchange program enables individuals from selected countries to study at a community college in the United States to develop professional skills. Eligible fields are Agriculture, Applied Engineering, Business Management and Administration; Health Professions, including Nursing; Information Technology; Media; and Tourism and Hospitality Management.

Eligibility

To apply to the program, candidates must:

- Have completed a secondary school education;
- Have relevant work experience in the field in which they are applying;
- Have English language skills that provide a basis for enrolling in academic coursework following approximately 2 months of intensive English language study in the U.S.; and
- Submit a complete application.

Applicants with Bachelor's degrees are only eligible if they are applying in a field different from the field of their degree. Applicants with MA or PhD degrees are not eligible to participate.

U.S. Program

The Community College Initiatives will provide funding for round-trip airfare to the U.S.; a living allowance during English language, academic, and practical training program components; tuition costs; a health benefit plan; and cultural enhancement activities. Students will be hosted in groups by community colleges competitively selected to participate in the program. Programs are approximately one year in duration. Successful participants will receive a certificate upon completion of the year. Students are required to return home at the end of their program and may not transfer to a four-year U.S. academic institution.

Selection and Screening

The U.S. Embassies and the Fulbright Commissions in selected countries are responsible for advertising the program and for recruiting and nominating candidates for further consideration. Educational experts in the U.S. will make selection and placement decisions for the approval of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Applications can be downloaded from <http://hyderabad.usconsulate.gov/ccs.html>

Submission of Applications:

An original application and two copies should be submitted to the address below by **NOVEMBER 10, 2010**

Public Affairs Section
U.S. Consulate General
Paigah Palace, 1-8-323, Chiran Fort Lane
Begumpet, Secunderabad 500 003
Andhra Pradesh

For additional information, contact

HyderabadPA@state.gov

Academic Initiatives with Community Colleges



Student Highlights

Community College Initiative

The Community College Initiative Program enables individuals from Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia, Pakistan, Turkey, South Africa, and countries in Central America to study at community colleges in the United States to develop professional skills.

Participants are recruited from historically underserved populations and may not have had opportunities for formal job training or higher education. Most participants are in their early- to mid-twenties and many already have work experience. The program provides academic instruction in selected fields including agriculture, applied engineering, business management and administration, health professions, information technology, media, and tourism and hospitality management. Participants spend one year in the United States and may earn a vocational certificate. After completing the program, participants return home with new skills and knowledge that enable them to contribute to the economic growth and development of their countries and societies.

Since the program's inception in 2007, nearly 400 students have participated in study at host institutions across the United States.

The Community College Initiative Program demonstrates the U.S. commitment to increasing access to higher education for underserved international students in key regions and utilizes the unique resource represented by U.S. community colleges. The program reinforces U.S. community colleges' efforts to become involved in international education and develop international ties.

- In addition to their coursework, program participants serve in student government, and participate in extracurricular and community activities and seminars on U.S. politics and society. Students at Greenville Technical College in South Carolina got a first-hand look at the U.S. voting process when they met with the county election commissioner and visited polling stations during the 2008 presidential elections.

- Participants excel in their coursework. An 18-year-old student from Brazil earned an associate's degree in engineering from Northampton Community College in one year from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, with a high grade point average. He also was elected a student senator.

- Program participants seize opportunities to apply new skills. Two students from Turkey studying media and communications at Parkland Community College in Champaign, Illinois, hosted their own shows on the college radio station, producing music and news broadcasts for the community.

- Participants get involved in their communities. Egyptian students at Tallahassee Community College in Florida taught Arabic language classes on campus. Students at Richland Community College and El Centro Community College in Dallas, Texas, volunteered for a local organization that sends medical supplies to developing countries.



As a special component of the Community College Initiative Program, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, is providing support to young Egyptian men and women to develop professional skills and enhance their leadership abilities at U.S. community colleges. The program also provides Egyptian participants with opportunities to improve their understanding of U.S. culture and society. The first group of 175 Egyptians arrived in the United States in August 2008.

The Community College Initiative Program with Egypt also provides Egyptian vocational school teachers and administrators with a professional development experience in the United States. Participants spend nine months at a U.S. community college, where they focus on curriculum design and pedagogy, academic affairs and administration, and the development of partnerships with business and industry. Participating teachers and administrators return to Egypt to further support educational reforms in Egyptian technical colleges.

