

#### *Toward Equality: The Global Empowerment of Women*

One of the oldest and largest international exchange programs in the world, the Fulbright Scholar Program is in a unique position to respond to the opportunities ushered in by a new century in which the nations and citizens of the world are increasingly interdependent. Its worldwide design and long standing international relationships represent a valuable platform upon which to build new, global models for collaborative thinking among scholars of many different nationalities about the challenges and possibilities for humankind in the 21st Century.

The Fulbright New Century Scholars Program, an initiative of the Fulbright Scholar Program, brings together annually 25-30 outstanding research scholars and professionals from the U.S. and around the world. NCS fellows engage in multidisciplinary collaboration on a topic of global significance under the leadership of a Distinguished New Century Scholar Leader, an individual selected for expertise and standing in the area of the research topic as well as for the ability to approach the topic from an interdisciplinary perspective.

For the academic year 2004-2005, the research focus is "Toward Equality: The Global Empowerment of Women." Carolyn Elliott, Professor Emerita of Political Science, University of Vermont, will serve as the Distinguished New Century Scholar Leader.

#### Overview

Efforts over the last several decades to improve women's lives have produced new concepts and methods. We have more sophisticated understanding of how organizations and markets work, critiques of nationalism and other ideologies that affect women, activist movements within countries and across the globe, new social technologies like microcredit, new ways of hearing women's voices in literature and the arts, and a substantial recognition by mainstream institutions of women's critical roles in national development. It is now well-documented that more enlightened gender policies and investments in women's education and health lead to higher human development and economic growth. Yet many challenges remain. Several international communities of research, programming and activism have formed to pursue critical issues in research and action. Among these are networks devoted to human rights, women and development, women in welfare states, women's studies, and reproductive health.

The New Century Scholars Program will support accomplished scholars and professionals who wish to share their work and build collaboration within and across these issue communities. Fellows selected as New Century Scholars will conduct individual research, make an international exchange visit of two to six months, and participate in a program of seminars and exchange. They will identify and carry forward collaborative projects to advance research, education and/or policy to improve the lives of women.

Sample topic areas for individual projects include:

- Education and socialization of girls
- Politicized religions and the involvement of women
- Globalization and the economic status of women
- Policies toward family, reproduction and women's health
- Impacts of international and civil conflict on women
- Media representations of women and the formation of ideologies of gender
- Women's writings as sites of resistance and change
- Women and science and technology

## Program Activities

- International exchange opportunity of two to six months
- Orientation and Goal Setting Session
- Mid-term Meeting
- Final Plenary Seminar
- Ongoing discussion and interaction among NCS fellows throughout program year

NCS Scholars are expected to participate in all activities of the program, to pursue individual research related to the NCS theme, and to contribute to NCS group objectives throughout the program year.

## Eligibility Requirements

Outstanding scholars of any rank in any field related to the NCS research theme are invited to apply. Applicants with strong interdisciplinary and comparative interests are especially welcome. Applications from qualified professionals planning to undertake research are also welcomed.

- Ph.D. or equivalent terminal degree in a relevant field.
- U.S. applicants must have US citizenship and be permanently residing in the U.S. at the time of application.
- Non-U.S. applicants must be citizens of and residing in the country from which they are applying and must submit their applications through a participating Fulbright Commission or Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy.
- Fluency in English.

Approximately one-third of the participants will be US scholars, and the remaining two thirds will be visiting scholars from outside the US.

## Awards/Benefits

- Individual awards in the amount of \$41,500
- Travel and per diem for orientation and program seminars

NCS awards are intended primarily to provide support for travel and maintenance, research materials and assistance, and some salary replacement in connection with fellows' research projects.

## Tentative Timeline

July 2003	NCS Program announced and application materials available
December 15	Deadline for submission of application materials
February 2004	Fulbright New Century Scholars announced
April	NCS Orientation
August	Exchange Visits may begin
October/November	Mid-term Seminar (tentative)
March/April 2005	Final Plenary Seminar

**Contact Information: Complete details, application materials and instructions are available on the CIES website at [www.cies.org](http://www.cies.org). Print copies may be requested via e-mail from [NCS@cies.iie.org](mailto:NCS@cies.iie.org) Specific questions may be addressed to Micaela S. Iovine, Senior Program Officer for Global Programs, [miovine@cies.iie.org](mailto:miovine@cies.iie.org)**

