

# **Civic Education and Leadership Fellowship**

**Applications due: September 12, 2010**

**Submit applications to [segaslm@state.gov](mailto:segaslm@state.gov)**

## **Summary**

The Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) is pleased to continue working on the Civic Education and Leadership Fellowship (CELF) project. Through future cohorts, the CELF project will provide up to 60 academics from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) an opportunity to participate in individually tailored projects at the Maxwell School for Public Affairs at Syracuse University (<http://www.maxwell.syr.edu>) in upstate New York.

The CELF is intended to be a 4-month fellowship opportunity (one academic semester) for university teachers and scholars from the MENA region. The objectives of the project are to: 1) promote democracy and international standards in social science education in MENA countries striving to develop their civil society capacity on the university policy level; 2) enhance the quality of education through improved curricula development and delivery, increased institutional capacity, and expanded student and faculty engagement; and 3) fully develop the critical thinking and analytic capabilities of educators to enhance their ability to disseminate critical civic education material to their students.

The Fellows will spend approximately four months in residence at Syracuse University. In 2011, CELF will host two groups of Fellows: 1) 12 Fellows will participate in the project January 31 – May 15, 2011; and 2) 12 Fellows will participate in the project August 31 – December 15, 2011.

## **Project Overview**

The objective of the CELF project is to enhance international standards in social science education through improved curricula development and course delivery, increased institutional capacity, expanded student and faculty engagement; and improved critical thinking and analytic capabilities of educators in institutions of higher education.

CELF is open to individuals working in an accredited institution of higher education for a minimum of five years and not more than ten years with at least five years of experience working in social science disciplines, including political science, public administration, law, media, journalism, and communications. Though PhDs (completed or in progress) are preferred, the minimum requirement for the candidates is a completed Masters degree in one of these fields.

The ideal candidate for the CELF project: has at least five years of experience working in social science disciplines, including political science, public administration, law, media, journalism, and communications; has a minimum of five years, but not more than ten years, experience working in an accredited institution of higher education; and has completed or is working through a Ph.D.

While this is preferred, the minimum requirement is that a candidate have completed a Masters degree in one of these fields: social science disciplines, including political science, public administration, law, media, journalism, and communications;

- Has demonstrated a commitment and desire to remain working in this field for the foreseeable future, and an equal commitment to improving the quality and capacity of educational institutions in their field of study.
- Has exhibited long-time leadership skills and the capacity to apply opportunities presented in this project in a way that would benefit an education institutions, organization, sector, and/or communities.
- Has a level of English language fluency to function successfully in a high-level academic and professional environment; successful applicants will be requested to submit TOEFL scores at a later date;
- Has not already completed a similar academic degree or residency in the United States, and is not subject to J-visa restrictions.
- Has letters of support from the institution that will allow the applicant to study in the United States.

Syracuse University will match each Fellow with faculty members on campus who may serve as mentors and contacts, and develop individual work plans for the three substantive areas of the project, namely: 1) curriculum development, 2) teaching and research skills development, and 3) professional enhancement and networking activities. The project will work with Fellows before they arrive in the United States so that they can maximize their time while they are in country.

All Fellows will participate in civic engagement, teaching skills and curriculum development seminars. Fellows will also participate in professional networking initiatives that broaden their contacts with individuals and academic institutions in the United States. Project participants will receive a certificate from the accredited institution upon the successful completion of the project.

MEPI, through its implementer, Syracuse, will cover all international and domestic travel, health insurance, housing in shared apartments, and a moderate living stipend in the United States for all Fellows participating in the project. All Fellows will travel to the United States in unaccompanied status.

### ***How to apply***

Applicants must submit the following to [segaslm@state.gov](mailto:segaslm@state.gov) no later than September 12, 2010:

- An updated resume
- Two essays of no more than 500 words each, written in English, answering the following questions:
  - Essay 1: What has influenced your thinking about civic engagement? What are the prospects for greater civic engagement in solving social problems and fostering participatory democracy in your country and how do you see the connection between your field of study and improving the prospects for civic engagement in your country?
  - Essay 2: What hopes and plans do you have about improving the quality and capacity of your educational institution in your field of study? How do you see yourself leading this change?