Higher Education in Africa: Africa-U.S. University Partnerships

APLU Funding Request: $20 million

Language Request (new language in italics, revised from FY14 Omnibus):
“support such programs in Africa, including $20 million for human and institutional capacity development partnerships between higher education institutions in Africa and the United States.”

(FY2015 PBR = n/a; FY2014 = $15M; FY2013 = $15M)

• APLU requests $20 million to expand partnerships between U.S. and African universities with a focus on building human and institutional capacity development.
• Lack of well-educated citizenry in sub-Saharan Africa is a major impediment to development on the continent; it undermines U.S. development assistance efforts and makes doing business with Africa costly and difficult. A World Bank study shows that economic rate of return for investment in higher education in Africa is twice that for investment in primary and secondary education, and the highest for any region of the world.
• Federal support for African higher education capacity development has been minimal for several decades despite high levels of interest from U.S. universities to engage in developing the capacity of African institutions and the well-documented success of past university-to-university capacity building efforts. These efforts can result in significant positive relationships between the U.S. and the African countries involved, furthering our national security goals with these countries.
• U.S. universities work with African partners in many key areas including agriculture, health, business, education, and natural resource management.

Feed the Future Food Security Innovation Labs

APLU Language and Funding Request: “not less than $43 million, including not less than $33 million for Collaborative Innovation Labs”

(FY2015 PBR = n/a; FY2014 = $32M; FY2013 = $31.5M)

• The Innovation Labs are a two-for-one investment. They provide scientific training that builds the capacity of developing countries to solve their own problems and through that training (which has a research core,) they also solve critical development problems. In so doing, the programs help achieve our national security goals with the countries in which they are engaged.
• Innovation Labs advance U.S. agricultural interests while also facilitating collaborative and diplomatic research relationships with other nations.
• Presently, there are 23 Innovation Labs, including 10 “Collaborative” Innovation Labs. These 10 Labs involve researchers at more than 60 U.S. universities in 39 states and territories.
• APLU supports USAID’s new efforts to harness the research capacities of U.S. universities to tackle the world’s most challenging agricultural development problems. The new Innovation Labs are a strong addition to the Agency’s food security research portfolio, which includes the successful Collaborative Research Support Programs (now called Collaborative Innovation Labs).