



December 9, 2008

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
State and Foreign Operations
U.S. House of Representatives
HB-26 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
State and Foreign Operations
U.S. House of Representatives
HB-26 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Lowey and Wolf:

On behalf of NASULGC, A Public University Association, which represents 216 public research universities, land-grant institutions and state university systems, I write to respectfully request your strong support in the FY2009 appropriations conference negotiations for agencies and programs of great importance not only to public universities but to the nation. Outlined below are our specific requests for programs in your bill.

Historically the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has funded initiatives that support research and training for institutions of higher education. Specifically, the Collaborative Research Support Programs (CRSPs) leverage the expertise and resources of U.S. universities to build human and institutional capacity of developing countries. This program improves their agricultural practices, addresses the food crisis, and helps poor countries feed their own people. This competitively bid program is a prime source of international development opportunities for universities. We ask that the CRSPs be funded at Senate appropriations level of \$29 million and additionally request the following report language. *“Provided further, that of the funds appropriated under this heading, not less than \$29,000,000 in core funding shall be made available for Collaborative Research Support Programs.”*

We also request report language that will direct USAID to increase the number of long-term trainees by 3,000 in FY2009 to build human capacity to support and sustain its development effort. This program provides quality scientific research training to developing country nationals. Once trained, these individuals who will return to their home countries, will be leaders in the science and technology fields that grow economies and stabilizes societies. Often these trainees, who overwhelmingly have a very positive attitude toward the U.S., end up in leadership positions where they connect with American business and bring the best of our values to their societies.

In addition, we support and anticipate the swift passage of the Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act in the 111th Congress. As such, we ask that start up funding for the foundation be included in FY2009 appropriations.

Further, there is a great need to strengthen and expand institutions of higher education in Africa where the demand for higher education is expected to double every five years. Your subcommittee has played an instrumental role in providing critical resources for primary education in African and other developing countries, giving millions of young people basic skills that will create opportunities for improved lives and for advancement to the next level of education. To respond to the compelling need for stronger higher education institutions in Africa, to accommodate these young people, and to appropriately build human resource capacity, we ask that the Committee provide \$20 million to USAID to expand a pilot program for Sub-Saharan countries to fund partnerships linking African and U.S. higher education institutions and their strategic partners. USAID has already provided \$1 million for an initial effort. Because of the magnitude of the problem significantly more resources are required.

I look forward to working with you throughout the remainder of the appropriations process to ensure that the nation maintains its ability to compete and innovate at a global level.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter McPherson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Peter McPherson
President