SUBJECT: Call for Nominations: FY-09 Study of the United States Institutes for Secondary School Educators

1. Summary: This cable solicits candidate nominations from posts for the Summer FY-09 Study of the United States Institutes for Secondary School Educators.

   Deadline for candidate nominations to be received is COB January 23, 2009.

2. The Branch for the Study of the United States (ECA/A/E/USS) is pleased to invite candidate nominations for the Summer FY-09 Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) for Secondary School Educators, to take place over the course of six weeks beginning in mid June 2008. Two institutes for secondary educators will be offered. Please note that Study of the U.S. Institutes are no longer considered Fulbright programs. As such, participants do not require FSB approval and will be eligible for future Fulbright opportunities following completion of the Institute. All other aspects of the Study of the U.S. programs remain unchanged.

3. INSTITUTE DESCRIPTION: The Study of the U.S. Institutes for Secondary School Educators will provide two multinational groups of 30 secondary educators each (classroom teachers, teacher trainers, curriculum developers, textbook writers, ministry of education officials, etc.) with a deeper understanding of U.S. society, education, and culture, past and present. The programs will be organized around a central theme or themes in U.S. civilization and will have a strong contemporary component. Through a combination of traditional, multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches, the programs will elucidate the history and evolution of U.S. educational institutions and values. The programs also serve to illuminate contemporary political, social, and economic debates in American society.

   The ultimate goal is to strengthen curricula and to improve the quality of teaching about the United States in secondary schools and other academic institutions abroad.

   Pending ECA grant approval, one institute will take place at the Institute for training and Development in Amherst, Massachusetts, and the second institute will take place at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Specific program information will be posted on the ECA website as soon as it becomes available. In the meantime, posts and prospective applicants are encouraged to visit our website to obtain general information about the FY-08 Institutes at:
4. OTHER ESSENTIAL PROGRAM INFORMATION:

A. **Program Funding**: Through the grant to the host institutions, ECA/A/E/USS will cover all participant costs, including: program administration, domestic travel and ground transportation, housing and subsistence, book, cultural, mailing and incidental allowances. ECA/A/E/USS will provide posts with fiscal data to pay for the international travel costs of the participants.

B. **Housing and Meal Arrangements**: Typically, participants will have a private room with a shared bathroom during the residency portion (four weeks) of the institute, and will have to share a hotel room during the study tour (up to two weeks). Housing will typically be in college or university owned housing. Most meals will be provided at campus facilities, though participants may have access to a kitchen to cook some meals on their own. Full details will be provided once the grants have been approved. It is important that these arrangements be made clear to nominees and that they are comfortable with such housing arrangements, particularly sharing a hotel room with another participant for up to two weeks.

C. **Health Benefits**: All participants will receive the Department of State's coverage of $50,000 with a $25 deductible for the duration of the program. Pre-existing conditions are not covered.

D. **Program Requirements and Restrictions**: Participants are expected to participate fully in the program. They are expected to attend all lectures and organized activities, and complete assigned readings. Family members and/or friends cannot accompany participants on any part of the program. Please note that teaching methodology and pedagogical methods will not be addressed formally in the institute. Candidates should be made aware that this is an intensive institute and there will be little time for personal pursuits unrelated to the program. The institute should not be viewed as a research program. It is important that these requirements and restrictions be made clear to all candidates before nominations are submitted.

5. CANDIDATE DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS:

A. Candidates should be mid-career, typically between the ages of 25-50, highly-motivated and experienced secondary school educators. The ideal candidate will be a secondary teacher, teacher trainer, curriculum developer, textbook writer, ministry of education official, or other
related professional with responsibility for secondary education who is seeking to introduce aspects of U.S. studies into his/her curricula.

B. The ideal candidate will also be an experienced professional with little or no prior experience in the United States, whose home institution is seeking to introduce aspects of U.S. studies into its curricula, to develop new courses in the subject of the institute, to enhance and update existing courses on the United States, or to offer specialized seminars/workshops for education professionals in U.S. studies. In this respect, while the nominee's scholarly and professional credentials are an important consideration, an equally important factor is how participation in the institute will enhance course offerings in U.S. studies at the nominee's home institution.

C. Candidates should be willing and able to fully take part in an intensive post-graduate level academic program and study tour. While senior educators are eligible applicants, ECA/A/E/USS urges posts and commissions to give first consideration to younger and mid-career professionals, and to persons who are likely to be comfortable with campus life and an active program schedule.

6. OTHER FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION: As a general rule, ECA/A/E/USS will not select more than one participant per country. Please be advised that the Study of the United States Institutes are highly competitive.

The following factors will be used in selecting participants from among the nominations. Nominations will be reviewed by ECA program staff. Post/commissions will be notified regarding selection or non-selection of candidates in mid-March.

A. Post/Commission Justification: The justification statement is a critical portion of the nomination, as it offers the opportunity to provide specific reasons why the participation of a nominee is particularly desirable in terms of enhancing the study of the United States at the home institution, or more broadly, in the home country. In the Embassy's view, for example, would the nomination serve to strengthen an already established faculty, or is it intended to give a boost to a fledgling program? Is the nominee a leader within his or her field who is in a unique position to have a significant and immediate impact on curricular development, or is the nominee a young professional with exceptional promise whose participation is likely to result in a substantial benefit to their home institution in the long run? Posts are strongly encouraged to describe the role that the nominee's home institution plays. Why, in short, does the nomination matter? The justification statement need not be especially lengthy, but it should address these and other relevant issues noted in paragraph 7,S below.
B. **Candidate Statement:** In order to get a better sense of potential participants' motivations and goals, ECA/A/E/USS requests that each candidate provide a short personal statement (one page) indicating why he or she is interested in participating in the program and what he or she expects to get out of the experience.

C. **English Language Ability:** It is imperative that all candidates demonstrate English language fluency. Institutes are rigorous and demanding programs; participants will be expected to handle substantial reading assignments in English and to be full and active participants in all seminar and panel discussions. English fluency is vital to a successful experience in the institute, both for your participant and participants from other countries.

D. **Priority Consideration:** Priority will be given to candidates who have firm plans to enhance, update or develop courses and/or educational materials with a U.S. studies focus or component, who have limited experience in the United States, and who have special interest in the program subject areas as demonstrated through past scholarship, accomplishments, and professional duties. In addition, ECA/A/E/USS makes every effort to have both a geographic and gender balance in the makeup of the participants in the institute.

7. **NOMINATION FORMAT:** Embassies will submit candidate nominations by cable or email. To facilitate proper handling, the subject line for all nominations should be formatted as follows: "SUSI for Secondary Educators: (Post/Country)".

Please note that ECA/A/E/USS will only accept nominations submitted electronically by cable or email. **Hard-copy applications will not be accepted.** Nominations must follow the format below. **It is essential that items A-F are included and completely accurate.**

A. **Nominee's Full Name, exactly as it appears on his/her passport:**

First Name

Middle Name

Surname(s)

B. **Date of Birth (please spell out Month, Day, Year)**

C. **City of Birth**

D. Country of Birth
E. Country of Residence

F. Country(ies) of Citizenship

G. Home Address, Telephone and E-mail

H. Gender

I. Medical, Physical, Dietary or other Personal Considerations: Please state if the candidate has any existing medical conditions or is currently taking any prescription medication. *This will not affect candidate selection, but will enable the host institution to make any necessary accommodations.*

J. Current Position and Title

K. Current Institutional Affiliation and complete address

L. Work Experience, including previous positions and titles

M. Education, Academic and Professional Training, including degree earned and fields of specialization

N. Active Professional Memberships

O. Publications (please do not list any more than 10)

P. Previous Experience in the United States: Please list any and all trips the candidate has made to the United States and include approximate dates and the reason for travel.

Q. Family Residing in the United States: Please list any immediate family members who are currently residing in the United States, including city and state.

R. Evidence of English Fluency (e.g. personal interview, test score, etc.)

S. Statement justifying participation of nominee in the institute:

(1) Current or projected extent of the U.S. Studies content of the course(s) and materials being taught or developed by the candidate;

(2) Likely relevance of the program to the professional responsibilities of the candidate;
(3) The potential impact of the candidate's participation on a greater understanding of American society and/or culture at his/her come institution (in terms of enhanced teaching and curricula, etc.);

(4) The relevance of the candidate's participation in the institute to the post long-term U.S. studies goals;

T. Personal Statement (no more than one page)

We look forward to receiving your nominations. Regards,

RICE