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**Religious Leaders and Interfaith Organizers Conclude Three-Month Fulbright Program to Build Robust Interfaith Dialogue**

*Washington, D.C.* – Geographic and cultural borders took a back seat today during a meeting between international religious leaders and interfaith organizers and their U.S. counterparts. Held at The Catholic University of America, the Fulbright Interfaith Community Action Program meeting capped a three-month educational exchange sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. During their time in the United States, the Fulbright scholars shared new collaborative learning processes centered on interfaith dialogue and community action.

“The Fulbright Program is designed to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries,” said Thomas A. Farrell, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Academic Programs at the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State. “By drawing on their studies and first-hand experience of American society, our visiting scholars are better prepared to return home and help promote international cooperation and tolerance. Today’s conference showed that the interfaith dialogue that developed over the last three months has helped us identify our most common bonds with one another. These Fulbright scholars have proven eager to work together with people of different faiths to address social and cultural problems. Through this program, we have truly created communities of cooperation that could reverberate around the world.”

Launched in 2007, the Fulbright Interfaith Community Action Program brings religious leaders and organizers from around the world to the United States for intensive study and collaborative experiences. Participants have been selected from nations in Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, and Europe.



Participants begin the Fulbright Interfaith Community Action Program with an intensive orientation seminar featuring distinguished speakers, discussions, and meetings with local religious leaders. They then take up scholar-in-residence positions at academic institutions across the United States.

During this final two-day conference, participants shared their U.S. experiences and discussed how a global ethic centered on interfaith dialogue could help erase cultural boundaries. They also discussed the role of interfaith dialogue in mediation and conflict resolution.

The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, is the U.S. government's flagship international exchange program and is supported by the people of the United States and partner countries around the world. Since 1946, the Fulbright Program has provided more than 286,000 participants from over 155 countries with the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, to exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

For further information about the Fulbright Program, please visit our website at <http://fulbright.state.gov> or contact James A. Lawrence, Office of Academic Exchange Programs, telephone 202-453-8531, or e-mail [fulbright@state.gov](mailto:fulbright@state.gov).