

In 2015, UConn will welcome 40 student leaders from North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa to work on social entrepreneurship. Two Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) for Student Leaders on Social Entrepreneurship will be hosted by the University of Connecticut (UConn) this summer from July 3 – August 7 (four weeks on campus, one week study tour). These institutes, the first comprised of 20 college student leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa and the second with 20 college student leaders from North Africa, will be run simultaneously. The educational and cultural exchange program will be developed and delivered by the University's Global Training and Development Institute (GTDI). Numerous faculty members from throughout our institution will be participating in this five week program, along with subject matter experts from institutions of higher education across New England. The GTDI is partnering with Ashoka on this program. Ashoka's work in advancing social entrepreneurship is well known and highly regarded across the globe. This Institute is sponsored by the Study of the U.S. Branch in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Student Leader Institutes promote a better understanding of the U.S. abroad and help to develop future world leaders. These Institutes explore the principles of democracy and fundamental American values such as individual rights, freedom of expression, pluralism and tolerance, and volunteerism. Participants have the opportunity to meet their American peers, engage in local community and service activities, and learn about the United States. The specific program objectives of this institute are to: 1) deepen participant understanding of the U.S.; 2) provide participants with an overview of how to use business techniques and entrepreneurial skills to address social issues; and 3) develop participants' leadership and collective problem-solving skills, and inspire them to apply these skills.

The curriculum will cover several fields of study including: Political Science, American Studies, History, English, Business, Leadership Development, International Studies, Environmental Studies, Women's Studies, Global Citizenship, and Civil and Human Rights. Through a creative mix of workshops, group exercises, site visits, home-stays, and cultural activities, participants will explore the defining events, time periods, and leaders in American history who addressed social issues and shaped the evolution of the U.S. The four week intensive residential program at UConn's main campus in Storrs, CT, will be followed by a week-long trip to cultural sites of significance in New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington DC. The program will include project start-up funds (to be awarded on a competitive basis) and follow-up support to participants as they return home and launch their own social entrepreneurship ventures.

The short-term anticipated result of the program is that participants will gain a deeper understanding of the U.S. and social entrepreneurship. In the long-term, we hope that they will stay in touch with new American friends and use these new relationships to build stronger international ties. In addition, we hope that participants will use new knowledge and skills to address social issues and transfer lessons learned to their home community.

Throughout the 5-week program, students live in on-campus apartments, with the exception of a weekend homestay. **GTDI is seeking families and individuals to host one or two students for a 'homestay' weekend, beginning Friday evening, July 24 through Sunday afternoon/evening July 26.** The goal of the homestay is for students to experience American culture by seeing how Americans live and spend their leisure time.

Please contact Danielle DeRosa (danielle.derosa@uconn.edu or [860-486-6305](tel:860-486-6305)) if you would like to participate or have questions.