

NEWS SERVICE

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Media Advisory

State Department's grant brings nine Afghan women teachers to Stevens for intensive training in video and other educational media

Project to enhance science and mathematics education for Afghan women

HOBOKEN, N.J. — Stevens Institute of Technology has received a grant from the US State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' Citizens Exchange Office to undertake an intensive summer training program for nine women science and mathematics instructors from universities in Afghanistan.

The program will provide professional development in mathematics and science education as well as in the use of technologies which can support classroom learning in Afghanistan's high schools. Emphasis will also be placed on strategies that engage women in the successful study of science. In addition, mentoring and leadership skills will be introduced that will enable the women to serve as models and mentors for their young, women students.

During the years of Taliban rule in Afghanistan, women teachers were barred from their profession and girls were denied the opportunity to learn.

Women and girls have now returned to classrooms throughout Afghanistan eager to make up for lost time. The Stevens program is intended to jump-start that process with particular focus on preparing teacher-trainers of science and mathematics at the high school level. The women instructors who will participate in the Stevens program have been identified by the Ministry of Higher Education in Kabul as being lead-teachers, whose professional development will have impact on large numbers of practicing teachers and future teachers.

The program is a joint project of two education research and development centers at Stevens. These are the Center for Improved Engineering and Science Education (CIESE) and the Lore-El Center for Women in Engineering and Science. The program is designed to permit each Afghan woman to move ahead at her own pace in a highly supportive atmosphere. In addition to

academic activities, CIESE and the Lore-El Center are designing a stimulating series of weeknight discussions, cultural events, and opportunities for the women to interact with their American counterparts at Stevens and in the larger community.

Two not-for-profit organizations that are already active in Afghanistan are providing significant support for this program. They are Schools Online based in Redwood Shores, Calif., and Relief International located in Los Angeles. Schools Online is donating laptop computers and software for use by the participants in Afghanistan, while Relief International is collaborating on coordination and implementation of program activities in Afghanistan.

Professional development and teaching resources that can be used by teachers and students in Afghanistan are being contributed to the program by Annenberg/CPB, a partnership between The Annenberg Foundation and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. These Annenberg/CPB video-based materials are being adapted and translated at Stevens for use in Afghanistan.

This project is intended to be the first stage in an ongoing effort by Stevens Institute of Technology to support education in Afghanistan. Stevens, which is one of America's oldest science and technology universities, has a long record of working to promote education in Afghanistan. The summer program for the Afghan women instructors builds on the special expertise at Stevens in the areas of teacher professional development utilizing technology developed at the Center for Improved Engineering and Science Education (CIESE) under the leadership of Dr. Edward A. Friedman. Dr. Friedman shares direction of the Afghanistan women teachers project with Susan Staffin Metz of the Lore-El Center. Metz has received national recognition, including a White House award, for her work in advancing the participation of females in the fields of engineering and science.

For more information about the Afghan women attending Stevens, please visit <http://www.k12science.org/afghanprogram/>

For more information about CIESE, please visit <http://www.k12science.org/>.

For more information about the Lore-El Center, please visit <http://attila.stevens-tech.edu/lore-el/>.

Established in 1870, Stevens offers baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees in engineering, science, computer science, management and technology management, as well as a baccalaureate in the humanities and liberal arts, and in business and technology. The university, located directly across the Hudson River from Manhattan, has a total enrollment of about 1,740 undergraduates and 2,600 graduate students. Additional information may be obtained from its web page at <http://www.stevens-tech.edu>.

For the latest news about Stevens, visit its new online news publication, StevensViews, at <http://www.StevensNewsService.com>.

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