

Transcript – Go Global ED Podcast: Trailer – A Preview of the new podcast produced by the International and Foreign Language Education Office (IFLE) at the U.S. Department of Education.

[Intro/Host/Amy] Welcome to the Go Global ED Podcast produced by the International and Foreign Language Education Office also known as IFLE at U.S. Department of Education. IFLE administers VI, domestic, and Fulbright-Hays, overseas, grant and fellowship programs that strengthen foreign language instruction, area and international studies, teaching and research, professional development for educators, and curriculum development at the K-12, graduate, and post-secondary levels. By hearing directly from grantees and fellows, the Go Global ED Podcast will highlight their experiences, provide unique insights into the application process, and explore the long-term value and impact of IFLE programs. The inaugural episode of the Go Global ED Podcast is scheduled to air in mid-November during our annual celebration of International Education Week. A joint initiative between the Department of Education and State, this year IFLE is proud to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Fulbright-Hays programs. The Mutual Education and Cultural Exchange Act 1961, commonly referred to as the Fulbright-Hays Act, was enacted by the 87th U S Congress on September 21st 1961. Senator J William Fulbright of Arkansas introduced the legislation in the Senate, and representative Wayne Hayes of Ohio, in the House. The law represents the basic charter for U.S. government-sponsored educational and cultural exchange. Today, IFLE administers three Fulbright-Hays grant and fellowship programs.

During the Go Global ED Podcast, we connect with several Fulbright-Hays alumni and reflect on their varied experiences on the Seminars Abroad, Group Projects Abroad, and Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad programs. We will explore the impact to the Fulbright-Hays program has had on their career, and why they would encourage others to apply.

Here's a sneak peak of the various conversations that we had with four of our guests who traveled to Brazil, Iceland, South Africa, and Nigeria on Fulbright-Hays program.

One of our first guests on the podcast Dr. Ida Rousseau Mukenge, a four-time Fulbrighter who developed two Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad to Brazil and Mexico and recently retired after 50-year career as a sociology professor at Morehouse College where her personal mission was “Take Morehouse to the world, and bring the world to Morehouse”

[Ida] That's where the Fulbright Hays Group Projects Abroad comes in. With that I felt that I was able to share more of what I was experiencing with my colleagues and my students and that's what inspired me to become involved in the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad and then we did those two courses, still with the focus on Africa and the African diaspora, the one to Brazil, Morehouse in Bahia the second one, to Mexico, Morehouse in Oaxaca.

[Host/Amy] Next up we have Amy Barsanti, a second-grade teacher from rural North Carolina who participated in the 2021 Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad to Iceland with a group of US teachers and administrators.

[Amy Barsanti] I really challenged myself physically and academically. There was a balance, it wasn't all kayaks and reindeer. We also visited university we visited parliament not in session, and the children's parliament you know so we it really informed my practice too because there's some things that you just have to as we say in the South 'sit n get.' So, we did attend a lot of lectures on gender equity education we met the president

[Host/Amy] We also spoke with Dr. Corey Holmes, Senior Professional Staff Member, former Policy Advisor for the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa Global Health and Global Human Rights. Dr. Holmes was a Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad fellow in 2017-18 and studied Zulu in South Africa.

[Corey] It was a youth radio station in downtown Johannesburg, and it was definitely the highlight. So it was different highlight for different reasons, but I was so impressed by this youth-ran organization, news station, radio station if you will because all you hear is South Africa and my dissertation says it, of the fact that young people don't have any opportunities, young people hold the highest unemployment rates, and then you have other folks in South Africa say well we don't have the human capital, we have a lot of jobs, but we don't have the human capital to fill these jobs. And so, to see this youth ran radio station and they actually wanted me to, we actually gave me a 45-minute radio interview. It was amazing

[Host/Amy] We also spoke with Dr. Diana Chioma Famakinwa who currently serves as the Assistant Director of the Africa Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin Madison. Dr Famakinwa was a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellow in 2018-19 in Nigeria.

[Diana] I was able to use my language skills to mostly build rapport. Because English is the official language spoken in Nigeria, it wasn't necessary that I speak Igbo and Yoruba while conducting research, but it was certainly useful in terms of building relationships with people because I just think there's a different connection that you can make the people when you speak their mother tongue.

[Host/Amy] Stay tuned for our first full episode the Go Global ED Podcast in mid-November to hear more from our guests as we continue to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Fulbright-Hays program.