NYU REYNOLDS PROGRAM PRESENTS AT US DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL VISITORS AND MERIDIAN INTERNATIONAL CENTER’S “VOLUNTEERISM: UNITED WE SERVE” PROGRAM

On April 14, 2010, four NYU Reynolds Fellows, along with Dean Ellen Schall of the NYU Robert F. Wagner School for Public Service, presented over lunch to the US Department of State Office of International Visitors and Meridian International Center’s 100 Distinguished International Visitors participating in “Volunteerism: United We Serve.”

The fellows who participated were:

Ms. Martha Diaz
M.A. candidate, Hip-Hop as a Tool for Media, Education, and Social Change, Gallatin School of Individualized Study, New York University

Ms. Magogodi Makhene

Ms. Courtney Montague
M.A. candidate, Public Administration, Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service, New York University

Mr. Mel Ochoa
M.B.A., Stern School of Business, New York University

Volunteerism: United We Serve
Inspired by the renewed commitment to public service encouraged by President Obama, the department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs developed an International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) that will highlight community service in the United States. Timed to coincide with National Volunteer Month, from April 12 – 30, 2010, this new initiative will bring 100 civic and community leaders, NGO representatives, government officials and educators from around the world to examine the impact of volunteerism both on the volunteers themselves and the communities they serve. Public-private partnership will be a key feature of the program. Participants will have opportunities to actively volunteer throughout the program.
Program Activities
The 3-week program, administered by the Department of State in cooperation with Meridian International Center, will feature visits to a variety of non-profit organizations, multinational corporations, charitable organizations and faith-based organizations to demonstrate how volunteers of all backgrounds and ages are inspired to national service.

The Program will begin in Washington, DC (April 12-16) where participants will discuss the Obama Administration’s vision for national service in America and around the world. It will address the role of government and national organizations in volunteerism, and demonstrate how Americans are inspired to participate in community service activities. Sessions will facilitate dialogue about current trends in the U.S., such as social networking, social entrepreneurship, and civic participation of American youth.

From Washington, participants will travel – first in four large groups (April 18-20), and later in pairs to 50 American towns and cities (April 22 – 25) -- to observe first-hand the scope of volunteerism in the U.S. They will learn best practices to establish and develop volunteer networks, and techniques to recruit, retain, train, inspire and reward volunteers. They will visit university campuses and secondary schools to observe volunteerism in action and discuss ways to inspire the next generation. At every stop, the visitors will participate in volunteer projects side by side with Americans.

The visitors will reunite in San Francisco, CA, (April 27 – 30) where a corporate partner will host a symposium on social entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility. Also planned is a joint community service activity with the visitors and the employees of a multinational corporation. Emphasis in San Francisco will be on international outreach and promoting long-term partnerships between the International Visitors and American volunteers in their home countries.

The International Visitor Leadership Program
“Volunteerism: United We Serve” is part of the prestigious International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State. The IVLP brings approximately 4,000 participants to the United States from around the world each year to meet and engage with their professional counterparts. American officials overseas select the visitors, who are current or potential leaders in government, education, politics, the media and other fields. Almost 300 current and former Heads of Government or Chiefs of State, thousands of cabinet-level ministers, and many other distinguished world leaders in government and the private sector have participated in the IVLP.

The Department of State directs the IVLP in cooperation with a number of non-profit organizations and over 90 community-based organizations across the country that work under the leadership of the National Council for International Visitors located in Washington, DC.