

Strengthening Partnerships in South and Central Asia

January 15, 2025

*Photo credit: 2022 IDEAS
Grantee The College of NJ, India*

This session is being recorded and will be posted on the IDEAS website within one week.



The IDEAS (Increase and Diversify Education Abroad for U.S. Students) Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and supported in its implementation by World Learning.

Strengthening Partnerships in South and Central Asia
[Read Full Speakers Bio](#)



Heidi Manley

**Chief, USA Study Abroad, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
U.S. Department of State**

USA Study Abroad



Mission:

The **Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)**'s mission is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange that assist in the development of peaceful relations.



55,000 participants engage in exchange programs funded by ECA annually



15,000 American participants travel abroad on exchanges each year



101 U.S. public and private non-profit institutions funded



Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State



IDEAS Program

A program of the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, USA Study Abroad branch

Seeks to broaden U.S. higher education institutions' capacity to grow study abroad programs for U.S. students

- Increase number of all students studying abroad, including those from underrepresented groups
- Increase the number of U.S. higher education institutions offering study abroad programs
- Expand study abroad to new overseas destinations, particularly those that are less common

Grant Competition

- Approximately 35 grants of up to \$35,000
- Approximately one consortium grant of up to \$50,000

Capacity Building Initiatives

- Virtual and in-person, open to everyone



IDEAS Grant Competition

216
grantees

47
U.S.
states +
D.C. and
P.R.

\$6.7
million
awarded

10,000
estimated
students
impacted



Tammy Paltchikov

**Deputy Director for Press and Public Diplomacy, Bureau of South and Central Asia,
U.S. Department of State**

Q + A



WELCOME

India Breakout Room



Adelle Gillen

Public Diplomacy Officer, U.S. Embassy New Delhi
U.S. Department of State



Adam Grotzky

**Executive Director,
United States – India Educational Foundation (USIEF)**



Lokesh Shivakumaraiah

**Executive Director of International Programs and Special Assistant to the Provost,
Mississippi Valley State University**

Itta Bena, MS | HBCU | Public Institution | 2200 students

Fulbright HBCU Leader (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)



MVSU celebrates Holi – Festival of Colors!

- **IDEAS grant: Breaking Down The Silos**
 - Faculty/Staff Engagement and Training
 - Year-long Study Abroad Awareness
 - Study Abroad Capacity Building
 - International Academic Partnerships
- **MVSU India Initiative (since 2021)**
 - Develop collaboration with Indian institutions
 - Faculty and Student Mobility: India - MVSU
 - Language and Cultural Exchange

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

- **Fulbright Programs**

- **2021-2024 HBCU Institutional Leader**
- **Fulbright Language Teaching Assistants (FLTAs):**
 - 3 Hindi Language FLTAS
- **Fulbright Scholar-in-Residences:**
 - 2022-23 (India), 2024-25 (Taiwan), 2025-26 (India pending approval)

- **India Academic Partnerships**

- MJPRU, NIIT (upcoming)

- **External Grants**

- MVSU Faculty Global Engagement Seed Grant - Title III funds
- DoE Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program
- USIEF Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Chair Program (future)



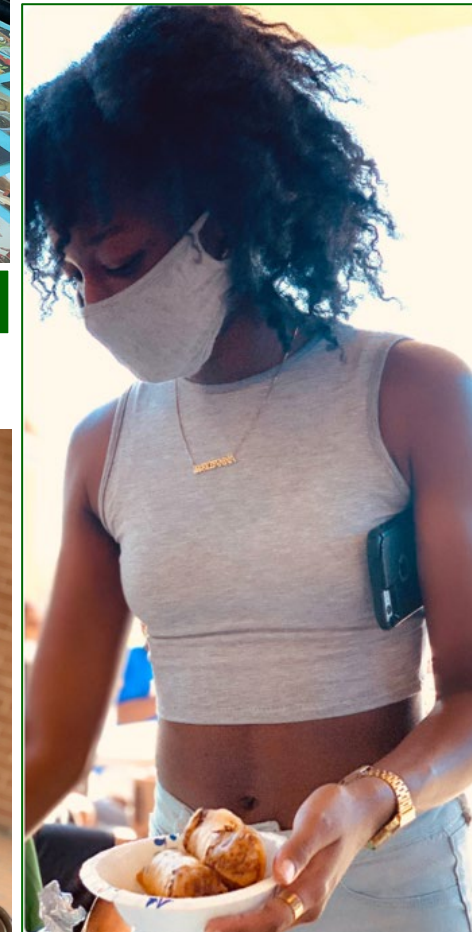
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

- **India Cultural Activities – 3 years**
 - Holi, India Night, Delicious Destinations
- **India Expat Engagement:**
 - Jobs, Internships, Host Families, Cultural Activities
- **Collaboration Next Steps:**
 - U.S. Embassy in India & Indian Embassy in the U.S.



India Table at 2024 Valley Global Fest

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Delicious Destinations- Samosas



Henna Tattoos at MVSU



India Expat Community: MVSU International Week



MVSU Students Participating In Diwali!

Q + A



WELCOME

Central Asia Breakout Room



Mark Cameron

**Director of Bureau of South and Central Asia's Central Asia Office,
U.S. Department of State**



Dr. Cheryl Matherly

**Vice President and Vice Provost for International Affairs,
Lehigh University**



John Grether

**Acting Dean,
Kettering University School of Management**

Kettering University

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Kettering | School of
UNIVERSITY Management

- Founded in Flint, Michigan, in 1919 as the School of Automotive Trades
 - AKA, Flint Institute of Technology (1923), General Motors Institute of Technology (1926), General Motors Institute (1932), and GMI Engineering and Management Institute (1982-1998)
- 4-year private, non-profit institution offering bachelor and master degree programs in engineering, management and computer science.
- Year-round program of study and co-operative education.
- 1300 students; 78% male, 22% female.
- Nationally top 10 for career preparation. #1 in undergraduate starting salaries in Michigan.
- Full-semester study abroad exchanges with universities in Germany, Spain and South Korea.
- Because of our unique academic calendar, historically few short-term study abroad opportunities.

Central Asia Connections

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Kettering | School of
UNIVERSITY Management

2020 - American Councils for International Education – UniCEN Grant #1

- Partnered with Andijan Machine Building Institute (AndMI) in Andijan, Uzbekistan to assist in funding and building a modern machine tool laboratory. AndMI is the primary training ground for automotive engineers for UZAuto, formerly GM Uzbekistan.

2022 – American Councils for International Education – UniCEN Grant #2

- Developed virtual and in-person training to transfer Kettering University’s Innovation and Entrepreneurship curriculum to AndMI, Kyrgyz State Technical University in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, and the Tajik Agrarian University in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

2022 – World Rector’s Forum – “The Role of Universities in Building a National Innovation Ecosystem”

- Invited speaker on the topics of Entrepreneurial Mindset Development and Government Innovation Policy.
- Sponsored by the Ministry of Education and Technology of The Kyrgyz Republic and WIPO.

2023 – IDEAS Grant

- Develop a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) course in New Venture Creation (Oct-Dec 2024) and to plan (June 2024) and execute a short-term study abroad trip to the Kyrgyz Republic (June-July 2025).

Observations and Learnings

The most obvious challenges are not that difficult

- A 10 hour-time difference for virtual meetings is manageable
- Language barriers are fairly easily bridged with patience and translation software

Central Asia is post-Soviet

- Solid infrastructure where it exists
- Acceptance of bureaucracy
- Large informal economy
- Having the right network is the key to effective planning

Cross-cultural challenges and opportunities

Q + A





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