



Hope Fellowship Upcoming Events

- April 9th 2010: Group I Hope Fellows arrive in Washington, DC
- April 28th, 2010: Congress shadow day & presentation reception

www.naac-hf.org



USAID Mission Director, Patricia Rader, with Hope Fellows



Hope Fellows during a graduation ceremony

Hope Fellowship - 9 Years of Success!

The Hope Fellowship (HF) program is sponsored by USAID and it is created and administered by the National Albanian American Council. Initiated in 2001, Hope Fellowship was created to increase the leadership skills of women in decision-making positions in government institutions and civil society, thereby strengthening institutions and civil society actors.

The Hope Fellowship program has sought to help women promote themselves, not just for the sake of filling quotas, but much more importantly, to build human capital and strengthen institutions as a means to institutionalizing democratic practices. The focus on women has been a response to the gender imbalance in the Balkans at the highest levels of leadership.

To date, over 1,000 fellows have completed the program and are actively engaged in leading new initiatives in their jobs and communities in Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia and Montenegro.

HF-Phase III

NAAC successfully implemented the third phase of the Hope Fellowship program from October 1, 2006 – September 30, 2009. We completed the training series on Management, Leadership, Youth, Anti-corruption, Youth and Advocacy. At the end of the trainings, each group developed an initiative for a common project to implement together which contributed to the betterment of the communities they live in and further reinforced their new skills. Furthermore, we held five regional dialogues throughout the course of the program. Attendees

exchanged their knowledge and best practices on various topics.

HF organized three Washington D.C. Study Tours for fellows from Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia. The study tour provided a tremendous opportunity for the fellows to establish partnerships with several international organizations and government agencies, and develop new friendships. These new partnerships and friendships encouraged regional and local cooperation and provided potential means for future collaboration.



NAAC Launches Phase IV of Hope Fellowship

In October 2009, NAAC launched Phase IV of the Hope Fellowship program in Kosovo. This phase will offer opportunities for women to explore and develop their leadership capacities and expertise through trainings, active research, creative initiatives, dialogues and group work. Fellows will develop individual project proposals while in Kosovo, learn about project management and implementation while in Washington, DC for six weeks and, upon return to Kosovo, implement them in their respective institutions. In groups they will develop an initiative that is related to their professional expertise, community needs and will be sector-specific.

Eight Fellows have been selected to be a part of the first Hope Fellowship group. This group will arrive in Washington, DC for the six week program on April 9th, 2010 and depart on May 22, 2010.



USAID Mission Director, Patricia Rader

The first group's focus is on rule of law so they will be learning about judicial reforms.

They will be involved with the following activities/events:

A Congress shadow day; Meetings with high level officials from the State Department, USAID, World Bank and other international organizations; Mentor program where fellows are con-

nected with high level women in their field; And public presentations where they will inform the Washington, DC community about recent developments in Kosovo, etc.

Our mission is for the Hope Fellowship program to be the preeminent leadership development program in the Balkans, through modeling the principles of leaders, learners and creators. Graduate fellows will be at the forefront of creating and securing democratic practice, economic development and an ethnically integrated society in Kosovo.

Please stay tuned for updates on their activities here in Washington, DC!