

HOPE Fellowships

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The NAAC Hope Fellowship Program is a women's leadership program. It is created and administered by the National Albanian American Council and sponsored by USAID.

Hope Fellowship Upcoming Events

April 9th 2010: Group I Hope Fellows arrive in DC

April 14th, 2010: Hope Fellows present at NDI

April 15th, 2010: Hope Fellows present at PILPG

April 28th, 2010: Hope Fellows participate in the Congress Shadow Day

April 30th, 2010: Hope Fellows present for Congressional Staff



With Iraqi Ambassador to the U.S., Mr. Samir Sumaida'ie

www.naac-hf.org

Jeane J. Kirkpatrick Award Dinner



With Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

On March 8, 2010, Hope Fellowship staff members Amelda Beluli, Jorida Davidson and Shqipe Breznica attended the *Jeane J. Kirkpatrick Award* dinner

organized by Women's Democracy Network (IRI) in honor of Women's Day. The International Republican Institute (IRI) honored Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and the Iraqi Women's Leadership Institute (WLI) for outstanding contributions to the advancement of women in politics and civil society. Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen was the first Hispanic woman and the first Cuban-American elected to Congress, where she has served Florida's 18th Congressional District since 1989. Our staff promoted the HF's activities in Washington DC and Kosovo.

UN International Conference on Women's Status

In March, Program Manager Amelda Beluli attended the 54th Session of the *Commission on the Status of Women* at the UN headquarters in New York City. She met with various high level officials including the US Deputy Representative to the UN, Ambassador Meryl Frank, the UNIFFEM Chief for Europe and CIS Section, Ms. Zina Mounla, UNDP representatives and Albanian government officials.



With Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Labour of Albania, Ms. Filloreta Kodra

Washington Leadership Program Rule of Law Group

The Hope Fellowship Program will host its first group of Hope Fellows in Washington DC from April 9 – May 22nd, 2010. The Hope Fellows will attend skill building sessions by professional trainers and practice in real life settings. The fellows are engaged in a combination of activities including classroom-based skills trainings and project development, strategic site visits and consultations with professionals working on issues of particular interest to participants, conferences, group meetings with prominent leaders in their field, participation in a congressional shadow day, and presentations to various think tanks and universities.

During the Congress Shadow Day, each fellow is paired with a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, with whom she spends the day as his or her "shadow" to experience a day in the life of a Member of Congress.

The heart of this experience includes action research which empowers and encourages participants to network with individuals and institutions related to the issue of their leadership project.