

MEDIA ADVISORY

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GAINESVILLE, Fla.—The U.S. Department of Education has renewed its support of three major University of Florida programs—the Center for European Studies, the Center for African Studies and the Center for Latin American Studies—awarding a total of nearly \$5 million through its Title VI National Resource Centers and Foreign Language and Area Studies grant programs. The funding was secured during the summer and will be used over the next four years to enhance university curriculum in foreign languages and international cultures.

“Title VI centers are a hallmark of excellence,” said Amie Kreppel, Director of the Center for European Studies. “Recognized across the country as the pre-eminent programs for language and area studies, the award represents a significant addition to the national and international prestige of the University of Florida.”

The Center for European Studies was awarded more than \$1.5 million in funding to strengthen its programs, including study abroad programs in Belgium, the Czech Republic and Austria, as well as new offerings in Poland and Hungary. The center currently offers a minor in European Union Studies and is working on a Central Eastern European Studies minor and a graduate certificate in European Studies. Established in 2003 with funds from its first Title VI grant, the center has built and expanded programs in Czech, Greek, Hungarian, Polish and Turkish language and area studies. The center supports faculty development by funding workshops, conferences, course development, research and travel. It also holds public outreach events such as film festivals and lecture series for the Gainesville community.

The Center for African Studies has been awarded nearly \$2.1 million to support graduate fellowships, strengthen African language course offerings, host public lecture series and major national and international research conferences, fund faculty travel, purchase library materials, and provide outreach programs to K-12 teachers. The renewal is one in a long history of Title VI grants for African Studies, which has had support from the federal program since the 1970s. The center used its \$1.4 million grant in 2003 to support African language instruction, faculty hiring, graduate student fellowships, research and outreach programs to secondary school teachers and host its annual Carter Lecture Series.

The Center for Latin American Studies has continuously received Title VI funding since 1963 and is splitting its award of nearly \$2.5 million with Florida International University’s Latin American and Caribbean Center through the two institution’s joint partnership, the Florida Consortium for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. The consortium’s shared objectives for the grant include supporting graduate fellowships, improving elementary and secondary school teacher training, strengthening Portuguese and Haitian Creole instruction and assessment,

increasing undergraduate and graduate program enrollments, and deepening interdisciplinary course offerings and research and training programs.

The Department of Education solicits proposals for its National Resource Centers program every four years and provides grants to institutions of higher education to establish, strengthen and operate comprehensive language and international studies programs for undergraduate and graduate students. The Foreign Language and Area Studies program allocates fellowships to colleges and universities to assist meritorious graduate students pursuing the study of modern foreign languages and related area or international studies. For 2006, 124 international centers at universities across the U.S. were awarded National Resource Centers funds. Of these, 11 were in African studies, 13 in European studies and 18 in Latin American studies.

SOURCES: *Carmen Diana Deere*, Director of the Center for Latin American Studies
352-392-0375, ext. 801, deere@latam.ufl.edu

Amie Kreppel, Director of the Center of European Studies
352-392-8902 ext. 210, kreppel@ces.ufl.edu

Leonardo Villalón, Director of the Center for African Studies
352-392-2183, villalon@africa.ufl.edu