

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **UF Signs Agreement with Government of Honduras to Establish Graduate Fellowships**

Gainesville, FL - The Director of the University of Florida's (UF) Center for Latin American Studies, Philip Williams, and the Dean of the UF Graduate School, Henry Frierson, traveled to Tegucigalpa, Honduras in July to sign an agreement with the Secretariat for Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples (SEDINAFROH). Established in November 2010, SEDINAFROH is the first ever cabinet-level ministry in Latin America responsible for the development of indigenous and afro-descendent communities. The new agreement will establish a graduate fellowship program to be administered by the Center for Latin American Studies and supported by the Government of Honduras. The program will provide fellowships for up to ten Ph.D. and ten Master's students whose research and training interests further the goals and purposes of SEDINAFROH.

Williams and Frierson attended the signing ceremony for the agreement that took place at a cabinet meeting presided over by the President of Honduras, Porfirio Lobo Sosa. During the ceremony, President Lobo expressed his strong support for the initiative and the importance of providing graduate training opportunities to students at such a prestigious university. In his remarks, Williams emphasized how investing in education was the most important tool to ensure the country's future development and progress. He also pointed to the agreement as a first step in a long-term relationship between UF and Honduras. During their visit, Williams and Frierson also met with officials at the Autonomous University of Honduras to discuss graduate programs at UF and opportunities for collaborative research.

Founded in 1930, the mission of the UF Center for Latin American Studies is to advance knowledge about Latin America and the Caribbean and its peoples throughout the hemisphere. With over 170 faculty from colleges across UF, the Center is one of the largest institutions for interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach on Latin America, Caribbean, and Latino Studies.

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