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Short-term Opportunities for International Collaboration Through the Fulbright Specialist Program

Amirah Nelson

World Learning, amirah.nelson@worldlearning.org

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Presentation Description: This presentation will familiarize attendees with how established U.S. academics, administrators, and professionals can engage with a range of overseas institutions through the Fulbright Specialist Program, a part of the larger Fulbright Program that provides flexible opportunities to participate in short-term (2- to 6-week long) project-based exchanges designed by a range of overseas host institutions. The Fulbright Specialist Program pairs highly qualified U.S. academics and professionals with host institutions abroad to serve as expert consultants while building capacity at their overseas host institutions.

The presentation will include an overview of the program's roster-based structure, through which individuals who are admitted to the Fulbright Specialist Roster are able to be matched to various short-term projects designed by overseas host institutions, as well as examples of how participants have utilized the program to develop or strengthen relationships that contribute to larger internationalization goals of their campus or departmental units. Additionally, the presenter will provide attendees with insights into crafting a competitive application to join the Fulbright Specialist Roster and how they can pro-actively engage with the program's process for matching individuals on the Roster to available projects, as well as current updates on the program's activities in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Audience: The session is intended to be of interest to mid or senior-level faculty and professional staff, as well as university leaders from a range of U.S. higher education institution. Our aim is that the information provided and discussion facilitated around this topic will generate takeaways for academic chairpersons, administrators and faculty who may be interested in international professional development opportunities themselves, as well as those individuals looking for opportunities to share with colleagues, particularly at institutions which may have minimal funding for these types of opportunities or have previously had limited engagement with U.S. Department of State-funded exchange programs such as the Fulbright Program.

Presenter Biographical Sketch:

Amirah Nelson serves as Senior Outreach Officer for the Fulbright Specialist Program, advising U.S. academics and professionals on short-term opportunities available through the program to gain international experience and collaborate with overseas institutions. She has worked in the field of international exchange for the last decade, working with a variety of U.S. government and private sector donors to administer exchange programs for participants from the United States, Kosovo, the West Bank & Gaza, and across the African continent. Prior to joining World Learning, she spent several years in Indonesia, where she served as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant and was a consultant for the Indonesian Directorate General of Higher Education.