



*“America’s mission in this new century must be to welcome more foreign students to our nation and send more of our citizens abroad to study. To be successful, our government and our universities must forge a new partnership for education exchange.”*

*-- Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice*



More than 120 U.S. college and university presidents attended the first ever U.S. University Presidents Summit on International Education in Washington, January 5-6, 2006.

The goal of the Summit was to engage leaders of U.S. higher education in a renewed partnership with government to strengthen international education, emphasizing its importance to the national interest.

The Summit brought together university and college presidents and chancellors from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and included the full range of American higher education institutions.

President Bush opened the Summit and launched the National Security Language Initiative, an interagency effort by Departments of State, Education, Defense and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to increase the number of Americans learning and mastering critical need foreign languages such as Arabic, Chinese and Russian.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, who co-hosted the Summit, focused attention on

the importance of continuing to attract outstanding foreign students and scholars to the U.S. and on ensuring that American students are prepared to compete in a global economy.

First Lady Laura Bush addressed the Summit participants and stressed the tangible benefits of mutual understanding through exchanges, while Under Secretary of State Henrietta Fore, Assistant Secretary of State Dina Habib Powell, and Under Secretary of Commerce Franklin Lavin discussed the importance of fostering public-private partnerships.

Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Karen Hughes announced several new initiatives, including the Department of State’s intention to organize several delegations of university presidents and senior U.S. government officials traveling together to key regions to promote the value of U.S. higher education.

The U.S. government looks forward to continuing the dialogue on international education in the national interest and to strengthening its partnership with the U.S. higher education sector.

*“ In this world where what you know means much more than where you live, we all have a responsibility to make sure America’s education system gives students the chance to succeed.”*

*-- Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings*