

CONNECT US 2004 GRANTEES PROJECT AND ORGANIZATION SUMMARIES

YOUTH AUDIENCES: ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION FOR LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

K-12 Level

Center for International Understanding (CIU) \$50,000

The CIU's project "North Carolina in the World," seeks to infuse international content into the curriculum of today's classrooms across subject areas to increase student knowledge about the world. Steps include but are not limited to developing an advocacy advisory board to make international education a policy priority in NC, convene a conference to make NC teachers more knowledgeable/confident in teaching international issues, promote/expand foreign language requirements, build international school partnerships and make university and college international resources more available to K-12 schools. The grant will fund a project manager and website to coordinate these activities. CIU, a public service of the University of North Carolina, couples short-term immersion programs abroad with study and training in North Carolina for policymakers, educators and citizens to achieve its mission of "Learning from the world, serving North Carolina." The project's partners include State Board of Education members, university and college education specialists, policymakers, and business and education centers and individuals.

NetAid \$50,000

NetAid will build a strong, coordinated national movement of high school students committed to a more just, sustainable and peaceful world through a pilot project "Global Citizen Corps." Connect US will help fund a pilot project that aims to include media, resource mobilization, peer education, constituent building, and other capacity training for several New York high school students. NetAid also aims to develop a website action center to encourage follow-up activities. Finally, NetAid plans to catalyze peer education events run by pilot project participants, reaching a much larger pool of New York high school students. If successful, NetAid hopes to replicate the project in additional geographic regions in forthcoming years. NetAid mobilizes people in developed countries through education and action to end global poverty.

College and University Level

Americans for Informed Democracy (AID) \$40,000

AID will organize and institutionalize the "Bringing the World Home Symposium," a summit for American students studying abroad on how to communicate multilateral messages and raise global awareness in the United States. The symposium aims to bring together 600 Americans studying abroad at two weekend workshops. The grant will support a Director of Global Activities, based in Europe, and the implementation of the summits abroad augmenting the model of their successful May 2004 symposium hosted in Berlin. The goal of the symposium is to train students who have lived abroad to be active voices for multilateralism on their U.S. campuses after they return home. With members at more than 100 universities in more than 10 countries, AID is a non-partisan organization that raises global awareness on university campuses. AID fulfills its mission by coordinating town hall meetings on America's role in the world and by publishing reports on issues of global importance. Through these efforts, AID seeks to build a new generation of leaders dedicated to a multilateral U.S. role in the world.

Bank Information Center (BIC) \$45,000

Through its project, "United States and the Multilateral Development Banks: Constructing a more positive agenda," BIC will increase awareness and advocacy capacity of university environmental, social justice, and human rights activists as well as Connect US Network members. BIC will develop background briefings,

activist toolkits, and regular information updates on the U.S. role in Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs). They will then create a dissemination list of tools and updates focused on university groups and Connect US members and recruit students' participation in policy advocacy strategy sessions to promote positive, cooperative policies of the U.S. government in MDBs. BIC empowers citizens and civil society organizations to influence World Bank and other Multilateral Development Bank financed policies and projects in a manner that fosters social justice and ecological sustainability. With civil society partners in every G-8 state, other European countries and throughout the Global South, BIC will use the Connect US support to engage US constituents in their work.

Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF)

\$50,000

FMF will develop a global issues campus training program on college campuses that aims to include a national conference; development of training and educational materials; formation of campus coalitions and campus-specific events. The training program would focus on global poverty, sweatshops, degradation of the environment, and restrictions on women's'/reproductive rights. FMF, a multiple-issue domestic women's rights organization with a well-recognized Global Program, develops leadership amongst young leaders, specifically women, with projects on 151 college and university campuses in 26 states.

Global Justice

\$50,000

"The Generation FAIR: Young People for Fair, Accountable, Interdependent and Responsible Network" will increase the commitment of student activists to highlight the connections between environmental, international security, health and labor issues. The project will host regional advocacy, organizing and media trainings that culminate in a DC conference and advocacy event. Over 500 student leaders will participate in the various events and compete for mini-grants that support campaigns they design during the conference. Global Justice mobilizes a powerful movement of students and young people in the U.S., in partnership with youth abroad, to promote solutions to pressing social problems. The FAIR Network works to advance just and responsible U.S. leadership.

Young Adults

SOUL, School Of Unity and Liberation

\$35,000

SOUL's "Global Justice Program" uses interactive and relevant political education exercises to develop a global analysis and informed perspective on the U.S. role in the world in the U.S. youth movement. The program will develop 10 workshops of highly interactive and visual exercises to connect youth experiences with those around the world. The manual will be made available to Connect US members and used as a centerpiece of Bay Area and national youth workshops and conferences. SOUL is a training center for young organizers – especially young women, people of color, queer youth and low income youth – that holds evening courses, civic education workshops, summer programs, and training exchanges as well as creates curriculum, to develop youth skills and vision they need to work towards justice for all people.

WOMEN AS LEADERS AND ADVOCATES

Center for Women Policy Studies (Center), League of Women Voters (League), Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)

\$75,000

Three national women's organizations have joined forces to create a national cadre of key grassroots women leaders as advocates on US foreign policy in "Women Engaging Globally – Promoting Positive US Global Engagement." Women Engaging Globally will conduct five town hall meetings in strategically chosen cities across the country, include strong local League involvement and engage women state legislators already involved with the Center. The event will occur during Congressional district work periods to immediately influence policy. The forums will address specific foreign policy issues of interest to women – the first will focus on women in conflict -- to hook audiences into future involvement. The various organizations will use existing and new listservs, newsletters, forums and projects to promote the

project and continue to engage the new constituency. The Center is a multiethnic feminist policy center; the League is a nonpartisan political organization with 1000 local Leagues; and WEDO is an international rights advocacy organization.

CODEPINK: Women for Peace

\$50,000

CODEPINK, MotherSpeak and the Social Venture Network's, "Women's Peace Leadership Training Program" will train U.S. military, businesswomen and women from "middle America" to be spokespeople for an alternative U.S. foreign policy that is based on international law and global cooperation rather than war and militarism. These women will participate in intensive training on US foreign policy, public speaking and media; a multi-city speaking tour (focused on business, military and conservative venues); and major media/press events. The project also aims to produce a book and position paper on how to stop the next war before it starts. CODEPINK is a vibrant women-led grassroots peace and social justice movement with 100 chapters around the United States and world that strives for positive social change through creative protest, non-violent direct action, and community involvement.

Communications Consortium Media Center (CCMC)

\$50,000

The CCMC will expand the services of the Women's E-Media Center to increase U.S. media coverage of global and domestic policy issues that affect women through the Women's E-Media Center. WeMedia builds non-profits' communication capacity through an online web information hub that provides specialized press lists; media message tracking/analysis; rapid response email, fax and alert systems; talking points; polling research; a photo library; and web space for issue campaigns – all media tools necessary for a successful modern communications campaign. WeMedia already partners with other Connect US women's organizations and grantees. Since its founding in 1988, the CCMC has developed and implemented dozens of issue-based collaborative media campaigns resulting in impressive policy gains.

Feminist Majority Foundation

\$50,000

FMF will develop young leaders, specifically women, on college campuses interested in global issues affecting women. (Please see details in *Youth* section above)

Women's Action for New Directions (WAND) Education

\$50,000

The "New Vision New Voices on Security" project will reach out to women, youth, and faith-based communities on foreign policy and security issues. WAND will provide these targeted communities with educational resources, prepare them to communicate effectively, and support them as they engage their communities, policymakers and the media. WAND will work with Women's Edge to distribute "A Safer Better World Begins with Women: Your Guide to Global Issues." They will also develop peace and security curriculum for faith-based communities and organize training for trainers and other forums across the United States to implement the program. WAND will leverage its network of women state legislators and state and local partners to identify new and existing audiences. The WAND Education Fund educates the public and opinion leaders about the risks of nuclear war, foreign policy, and the need to reduce violence and militarism.

Women's Edge Coalition

\$20,000

Women's Edge launched the "Million Women Challenge for a Better, Safer World," a public education campaign to reach 1 million American women on issues featured in "A Safer Better World Begins With Women: Your Guide to Global Issues." Connect US will support campaign efforts to mobilize local women's grassroots advocates to take action and encourage policymakers to support multilateral institutions and instruments such as UNIFEM and CEDAW. In addition, they will work to generate local and national media coverage of the campaign. The Women's Edge Coalition, made up of 40 respected international, national and local organizations, as well as 15,000 individuals, advocates for international economic and human rights policies that support women worldwide in ending poverty in their lives, communities and nations. They offer positive U.S. foreign policy alternatives and push for innovative aid programs.

ENGAGING FAITH-BASED CONSTITUENCIES

Jubilee USA Network

\$50,000

Jubilee's Global Connections Tour will bring international partners to five cities to educate Americans about the connections between aid, debt, trade, environment and human rights. The tours will empower grassroots organizing; engage new constituencies and media; and host events, training and strategy sessions to strengthen the global justice movement. The project will particularly focus on bringing in new constituencies of color and conservative faiths to link the issue of debt with its many implications for development assistance, human rights, health, trade and the environment. Jubilee USA Network is a broad coalition of religious institutions, labor and environmental organizations that work to cancel the debt of impoverished nations.

National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA

\$50,000

The NCC's "Faithful Americans and Foreign Policy," project will disseminate a five-part curriculum, "American Christians in the Global Community," to 70,000 churches enrolling 13 million congregants in discernment and action. The curriculum, developed and tested with diverse churches, focuses on moving participants toward a more knowledgeable, cooperative, multilateral and sustained view of America's role in the world. The NCC will disseminate the curriculum through the web, listservs, newsletters and service centers; train recipients how to leverage the information; and encourage follow-up actions with policy makers. The NCC is the leading force for ecumenical cooperation among Christians in the United States, representing a Protestant, Anglican, and Orthodox network of 36 communions, 100,000+ churches, and 50,000 members that span the 50 states.

Women's Action for New Directions (WAND) Education

\$50,000

Please see Women's Section above for development of faith-based curriculum on peace and security.

REACHING OUT TO NEW CONSTITUENTS & STRANGE BEDFELLOWS

REACHING IMMIGRANT AND UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATIONS

Enlaces America and Foreign Policy In Focus (Enlaces-FPIF)

\$100,000

Enlaces-FPIF will equip Latino and Caribbean community leaders and organizations to become more engaged in the foreign policy debate through a Spanish language publications/website, an advocacy retreat and strategy session, and a press event in Washington, DC. The project will focus on trainings on message and media outreach, participatory research, and policymaker education with a focus on immigration, labor, trade (CAFTA), agriculture policy, the environment and militarized borders. Enlaces America, the international program of Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights, promotes transnational collaboration throughout the Americas. FPIF is a collaborative research, policy and educational endeavor of the Institute for Policy Studies and Interhemispheric Resource Center. The National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities (NALACC), a national advocacy organization of 60 community-based immigrant-led groups representing tens of thousands of immigrant groups is a major partner of the project.

TransAfrica Forum

\$50,000

A 40-member network of human rights, grassroots, religious, labor and women's organizations and university-affiliated groups will launch the "Haiti One Standard! Campaign" to end the disparate U.S. treatment of Haitian refugees and undermining of Haiti's sovereignty – including ending U.S. interdictions of refugees, ensuring detainees are protected and provided with legal counsel, and securing the release or asylum of prominent Haitian refugees. The Campaign will partner with legal advocates to plan events, but will focus on providing technical assistance (education/media/marketing toolkits) and mobilizing local

groups of Haitian community activists and their allies in nine U.S. cities. TransAfrica educates the public – particularly African Americans – on the economic, political, and moral ramifications of U.S. foreign policy on Africa and the Diaspora in the Caribbean and Latin America.

Strange Bedfellows: The Private Sector/Business Community

Business Leaders for Sensible Priorities/TrueMajority (BLSP/TM) \$10,000

The Connect US grant will support the hiring of either local organizers, public relations staff or a military advisory committee organizer to help implement a BLSP/TM project that will engage business leaders in distinct states to educate their peers, the press, the public and policy makers about the need for a more multilateral, less militaristic and interventionist U.S. foreign policy. BLSP/TM will accomplish this through establishing local networks/advisory boards in one or more of the following locations: Colorado, New Mexico, Florida, New England, Iowa, Wisconsin and Southern California. The advisory boards aim to generate ads, organize educational events, and generate letters to the editors and op-eds to local media outlets to promote multilateralism. BLSP/TM is planning to expand its military advisory committee and recruit private sector members to issue corporate endorsements to educate consumers. BSLP is a national organization of more than 1,000 business executives and professionals in 40 states with an online subsidiary (TM) of over 500,000 e-activists working to reduce military spending and move those resources to health care, education and environmental protection.

Center for U.S. Global Engagement \$50,000

“Acting Globally, Working Locally” is an innovative effort of the Center to amplify the voices of an existing broad-based network of business and community leaders committed to the importance of global engagement outside the beltway. Connect US funding will help support the project’s efforts to spark debate on the importance of U.S. global engagement through the development of innovative research and information tools. The project aims to create a compilation of success stories of international affairs funding abroad to engage citywide coalitions outside the beltway. In the same cities, the Center also hopes to co-convene public forums with local business leaders. The Center is the educational arm of the U.S. Global Leadership Campaign, a broad-based coalition of over 360 businesses and organizations dedicated to supporting a strong international affairs budget.

CONNECT US NETWORK SERVICES: BUILDING CAPACITIES AND COALITIONS

Communication/Media

Communications Consortium Media Center (CCMC) \$50,000

CCMC will expand the services of the Women’s E-Media Center. (Please see “Women as Leaders and Advocates” section above for details)

Link Media, Inc. \$50,000

Link Media will produce short action alerts entitled “What you can do,” to follow relevant documentaries and other programming broadcast on their 24-hour national satellite network that reaches 22 million homes via dishes and 14 million homes via local and public broadcasting stations. The action alerts will highlight people and organizations working to create a better world, provide effective media tools and link viewers to websites of partner non-profit organizations taking action on the issues. Link Media Inc. engages, educates and activates Americans on global issues and problem solving by broadcasting original and acquired programs that focus on critical humanitarian issues.

Mainstream Media Project \$50,000

Mainstream Media will book several national radio and TV interviews with Connect US participants and others to provide a consistent presence in the broadcast media for NGOs and individual experts analyzing and advocating new approaches to a range of interrelated issues affected by U.S. foreign policy through the “Global Engagement Media Project.” Mainstream Media will also work with Connect US members to

develop messages and strategies to frame issues for broadcast media. Well known for their work on peace and security, the Mainstream Media Project is a social change organization that uses the mainstream broadcast media to bring innovative, solution-oriented insights on key national and global issues to the listening public. They focus many of their initiatives on involving underrepresented voices (especially African American and Latino voices) and bridging gaps between progressives and conservatives.

Resources/Research/Reframing

Citizens for Global Solutions Education Fund (CGSEF) \$50,000

CGSEF will research and develop an alternate set of messages to more effectively frame treaties and international institutions as critical to the U.S. national interest, to shift the debate from individual treaties to a broader dialogue about the needs for U.S. leadership. This project will entail researching Congressional opposition, engaging Congressional allies and grassroots organizations, creating messages and communication guides for NGOs. CGSEF is a broad-based, non-partisan membership organization that works in the U.S. to educate Americans about our global interdependence, communicate global concerns to public officials, and develop proposals to create, reform and strengthen international institutions such as the UN.

National Priorities Project (NPP) \$50,000

The “Foreign Policy and Federal Dollars” project will provide easy-to-understand materials and web interactive maps and graphs illustrating how federal tax dollars are spent globally, including military/war, humanitarian aid, international security assistance, and diplomacy dollars. The project will also explore alternative foreign policies and their state and local impact. The information will be targeted toward organizing groups and the media, with a particular emphasis on reaching women, youth, people of color and local initiatives. Since 1983, the NPP has offered citizens and community groups tools and resources to shape federal budget and policy priorities that promote social and economic justice by showing how federal tax and spending policies impact local communities and states.

Trainings and Capacity Building

Aspen Institute \$100,000

The Aspen Institute’s “Global Interdependence Initiative (GII)” will develop, customize and deliver trainings on communicating effectively about global issues for Connect US Network members, particularly those whose audiences have been outside the discussion of US foreign policy – making the best possible use of the *U.S. in the World Guide*. GII will also train a cadre of trainers and facilitators to promote a consistent, research-based communications and advocacy approach within organizations and coalitions. The GII will also promote shared learning through these trainings and their virtual switchboard – an online tool for communication and discussion. The Aspen Institute is a non-profit leadership development and research institution promoting dialogue on major issues of public policy. The GII was launched in 1999 as a ten-year effort to better inform and more effectively motivate American public support for forms of U.S. international engagement that are appropriate to an interdependent world.

Henry L. Stimson Center \$50,000

The Stimson Center will create and distribute a training module on effective engagement of Congress on peace and security issues through its “Local Worldview’s Initiative” to Connect US participants and other organizations. The Stimson Center may also facilitate trainings at Connect US gatherings. Senior associates with deep knowledge of Capitol Hill are developing the training module and workbook for follow-up. The Stimson Center is a community of analysts devoted to offering practical, non-partisan, creative solutions to many of the most enduring challenges to national and international security. The Stimson Center’s successes include Security for a New Century, the only internally organized congressional forum designed to educate Members and staff about new initiatives in international policy.

Coalition Building

Natural Resources Defense Council and COLEAD**\$50,000**

The Earth Legacy Campaign involves a unique coalition of leading American environmental and foreign affairs groups seeking to encourage renewed U.S. leadership to protect the global environment. The campaign hopes to stimulate a national discussion on the U.S. role in protecting and preserving the planet by publishing a Declaration in January 2005 that has already attracted 19 organizational signers, preparing draft Congressional legislation to create an Earth Legacy Commission and convene meetings to support the possible Commission. In addition the campaign plans to launch a website and electronic newsletter as well as undertake public and media outreach across the country. NRDC is a non-profit environmental advocacy project and COLEAD is a coalition of 53 foreign affairs organizations.

Ploughshares Fund**\$25,000**

The Peace and Security Initiative (PSI) is a collaborative effort by key players across the peace and security field to better influence U.S. policy to promote a more just world, free from threat of weapons of mass destruction. Connect US funding will support PSI's efforts to develop and disseminate policy papers, media resources, fundraising, communications and grassroots organizing trainings, and capacity building tools to NGOs from the field to better influence policy makers, opinion leaders and the media. The Ploughshares Fund is the largest public grant making foundation focused on supporting individuals and organizations working to stop the spread and use of weapons of war and prevent conflicts that could lead to the use of weapons of mass destruction.