

## **CIPUSA Report to the CIF Board**

### **Strategic Planning Process**

CIPUSA has been participating in a strategic planning process for the past 2 years. The purpose of the strategic planning process is to examine who we are and what we do and through this we hope to create an exchange program model that can provide financial stability.

We have held numerous meetings with our affiliate offices together and separately and have worked with consultants to help us re-examine our programs. Our goal through this examination process is to create programs that benefit the participant, training sites, host families, affiliate offices and CIPUSA. Currently only a few of the stakeholders are seeing benefits and ideally we would like all stakeholders to see positive benefits.

### **Building Bridges Program (see handout)**

A direct result of the Strategic Planning Process was the development of a Pilot Program called - Building Bridges Program. We have conducted our first Building Bridges Program with our new affiliate office in Arizona in August. The program is for 6 weeks and we had a total of 4 participants sign up but only 3 were able to come. The focus of this program was social work. Participants applied from CIF Taiwan, CIF Israel, CIF Cameroon, and one from Indonesia. The program has specific activities not included in our previous programs:

Community activity

Interact with primary, secondary schools or universities

Comparable Learning Project

We are planning to host possibly two Building Bridges Program in 2018 one in February/March and the other in August/September.

### **University Student Programs**

#### **Intern Visa**

CIPUSA was just awarded authority by the Department of State to bring University Students on our programs!! This means that anyone enrolled in a university degree program are eligible to come to the U.S. on an internship. I would love to talk with anyone in CIF that may have interest in this program. Students can come here up to 12 months.

#### **US participants travelling abroad**

CIPUSA with its Arizona office has been sending groups abroad for approximately 10 day programs. So far groups have gone to Ireland, The Netherlands, and Nicaragua. These groups are about 20 people consisting of university students,

professors, and professionals. The focus of most of these programs have been social work. If you are a country that would be interested in receiving a group please let me know.

### **Grants**

#### **Russia**

CIPUSA and CIF Russia has just been awarded a grant funded through the U.S. government to strengthen the CIF Russia office and provide an organization for CIPUSA's Russian alumni to join. We are so excited to work on the program together and look forward to sharing our program results with you next year.

#### **Greece**

Because of CIF Hellas – CIPUSA was introduced to Fulbright Greece. I met with the director when she was in Washington, DC and we are hoping that we will be able to bring Greek participants in Social Work in 2018.

#### **Estonia**

CIPUSA and CIF Estonia has worked on developing a grant to pay for expenses for Estonian Social Workers. We are hoping to fund 6 participants to train in the U.S.

### **CIPUSA website/Newsletter**

Please join our facebook page at Council of International Programs USA where you will see all of your PEP programs. We promote your programs on our website as well at [www.cipusa.org](http://www.cipusa.org)