Peace Corps Fellows/USA Partners with UC Denver and SPA
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This September, the Peace Corps welcomed the University of Colorado Denver as its newest Fellows/USA partner in a unique graduate school opportunity for returned Volunteers. The School of Public Affairs will house the new program.

"The University of Colorado at Denver is setting a progressive example by incorporating an international perspective into their curriculum, and making good use of the talents of returned Peace Corps Volunteers to help solve problems in local communities," said Peace Corps Director Ron Tschetter. "We look forward to this new partnership through the Fellows program."

A key component is a degree-related internship in an underserved U.S. community. Fellows will apply their skills accrued as Volunteers to address issues of quality and access to education, nonprofit capacity building, and domestic violence through organizations including Denver Options, the Denver Center for Crime Victims, The Colorado 'I Have a Dream' Foundation, the Denver Employment Alliance, and Micro Business Development.

Fellows will be able to enter the PhD in Public Affairs, Master of Criminal Justice or Master of Public Administration degree programs. They will receive $3,000 scholarships toward their study for up to two years, and also be eligible for other scholarships and assistantships in addition to their paid internships.

“Our partnership with the Peace Corps really brings together some of the best aspects of both of our organizations--a strong educational component coupled with real world skills we encourage students to use whether in the local community or any community around the globe," said UCDHSC Provost Mark Heckler. "This additional partnership through our School of Public Affairs is just one more way we're providing learning that applies to today's changing world."

The relationship between UC Denver and the Peace Corps began in 2003 with the Department of Geography and Environmental Science program that allows students to pursue a master's degree in environmental science while serving in the Peace Corps. The School of Public Affairs connection will increase opportunities for Volunteers who have completed their term of service and who are ready to continue their service domestically.

As one of the Peace Corps' domestic programs, Fellows/USA enables returned Volunteers to pursue graduate degrees at reduced cost while aiding underserved U.S. communities through internships. For more information about Fellows/USA, visit the Peace Corps Web site at www.peacecorps.gov/fellows. Prospective students or interested community partners should contact returned Peace Corps Volunteer and SPA Associate Professor Christine Martell at Christine.martell@cudenver.edu or 303-315-2716.