



**Higher Education
for Development**
Knowledge, Partnerships, Results

Armenian Partnership Navigates Path to Women's Empowerment



Photo courtesy of Andy DeLisle, ASU

Yerevan State University scholars (l-r), Tatevik Sargsyan, Lilit Shakaryan, Anna Gevorgyan, and Ani Kojoyan, prepare for their weekly seminar on research and pedagogy as part of the semester-in-residence program at Arizona State University.

Since 2012, Arizona State University (ASU) and Yerevan State University (YSU) have been partners in the USAID-funded and HED-managed Women's Leadership Program (WLP). They are working to develop YSU's capacity to deliver women's leadership education and enhance the quality of information regarding women's leadership and gender issues available to students, faculty, and the local community in Armenia.

Although promoting gender equality and female empowerment are part of Armenia's development goals,

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Featured Partnership:
University of Colorado
Boulder/ Institut Supérieur
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Médénine / Institut
Supérieur des
Etudes Technologiques
Tataouine



Photo courtesy of Jeanne-Marie Duvall, HED

**Sustainability Centers Offer
Tunisians Work Experience
at Local Businesses**

Creating jobs for residents and providing sustainable development opportunities to the local population are just two of the goals Fathi Guemri says he hopes to achieve as part of a Department of State-funded

holding seminars, revamping curricula, and planning for a master's degree program in women's and gender studies have not been without challenges. "It's very important to realize it is a really sensitive issue in Armenia," said Victor Agadjanian, a U.S. co-partnership director and professor at ASU. "No one is opposed to women's rights in principle, at least explicitly." However, Agadjanian said, "Some people find that promoting gender equality is not necessary, should not be prioritized, or even that it undermines Armenian families and the traditional roles that women hold in that society."

The partners' establishment of a Center for Gender and Leadership Studies (CGLS) in May 2013 is the cornerstone of women's leadership education and outreach at YSU and provides opportunities for individuals in the academic and non-academic community to discuss and learn about gender and women's leadership. "The center is the most important investment in the project," said Agadjanian. The CGLS conducts seminars and international conferences and coordinates a professional mentoring program that links female students and recent graduates to successful professional women from the community.

Under the WLP, the CGLS also offers faculty opportunities to carry out applied policy research through a small grant program, to conduct various outreach activities and to develop and teach courses on women's and gender issues. Four YSU scholars, Tatevik Sargsyan, Anna Gevorgyan, Ani Kojoyan, and Lilit Shakaryan, have completed a semester-in-residence program at ASU's Melikian Center, which allowed them to return to YSU with upgraded curricula and modified syllabi. "I have seen what democracy and gender equality look like and I am excited to see them in my country—not only on the level of written laws, but also on the level of unwritten laws during daily life," said Gevorgyan, who is pursuing her Ph.D. in research and created courses on "Women and Islam" and "Women and Religion" during her semester-in-residence at ASU.

Current semester-in-residence scholar Ani Manukyan also serves as the outreach coordinator for CGLS. She plans to develop syllabi on "Women in Transition Periods" and "Women and Leadership in the West and in Post-Soviet Countries." She is studying the history of women's issues in the United States and has begun to notice similarities to today's Armenia. "Education is a core thing in [a] woman's life which should be fostered actively. The establishment of the YSU[']s CGLS became a turning point in the academic

project between the Tunisian Institut Supérieur des Etudes Technologiques (ISETs) in Tataouine and Médenine and the University of Colorado Boulder. In 2011, Tunisia's unemployment was reported at 18.3 percent, according to data from the World Bank, and this project is designed to lower that high number through revised curricula for ISET students and trainings for faculty members like Guermi.

As part of the project activities, Guermi now directs the Sustainable Solutions Center in Tataouine, one of two in the country established under the partnership, which is funded by the U.S. Department of State through Higher Education for Development (HED).

Both Guermi and Sami Chibani, director of the center in Médenine, spent nearly two months this past summer at the University of Colorado Boulder receiving training on managerial skills for their centers in Tunisia. They agree that the centers' main purpose is to stimulate employment and entrepreneurial opportunities to communities. The centers are expected to benefit a total of 225 students at the ISETs throughout the duration of the partnership. According to Chibani, "[T]eachers and local communities...rely heavily on this partnership because it gives opportunities for technical skills development in energy efficiency and entrepreneurship, improves education in [the] ISET and [helps] find sustainable solutions for local industry by using renewable energy."

Guermi noted that there has been a positive impact for the students. At one of the sessions, "the ISET students...were able to

and social life of Armenia.”

Agadjanian acknowledges the responsibility of universities and centers like CGLS to translate thought and analytical skills into beneficial policy and action for the public. “I think this ultimately is what our main emphasis is... to translate the expertise, the energy, and the skills of university faculty into real change in Armenian society. I feel that this is the mandate that we received from our sponsors, and I think we need to ultimately focus on that.”

Learn more about this [HED-managed USAID project](#).

New HED Partnership Builds on South-South Linkages in Sub-Saharan Africa

Working in public health leadership across Eastern Africa requires linkages, commitment, and common goals. A new partnership between Tulane University in Louisiana and the One Health for Central and Eastern Africa based at the Makerere University in Uganda is expected to flourish thanks to two previous HED partnerships that succeeded in nurturing south-south collaboration in the area of public health education and leadership, emergency response training, disaster relief management, and zoonotic disease research and education.

This new partnership will promote the “One Health” principles to address human, animal, and ecosystem health, strengthening leadership development skills, research, and community engagement across Central and Eastern Africa.

A past partnership, the Leadership Initiative for Public Health in East Africa (LIPHEA), brought together several schools of public health that yielded an active south-south alliance of seven schools of public health in six Eastern African countries: Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. This [regional alliance](#) worked to build capacity at each institution and developed teaching and training via online and classroom courses.

The other project is the Capacity Building in Integrated Management of Trans-boundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses (CIMTRADZ), an Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative [partnership between North Dakota State](#)

meet the larger Tataouine community including local business owners and [an] NGO working on economics and development.”

Guemri also noted that, “The center hopes to focus its efforts on helping establish micro-enterprises that create local jobs and provide sustainable development opportunities to the local population.” In fact, two projects have already started at the center in Tataouine, one involving the Society of Industrial Water Conditioning Mineral and another with Tunisia Telecommunication.

Read the [partnership profile](#) for more information.

Meet HED at the AIEA 2014 Annual Conference

HED will present a session at the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) 2014 Annual Conference in Washington, DC. Jeanne-Marie Duvall, HED deputy executive director, and Jessica Bagdonis, HED associate director of program quality and impact, will discuss “Measuring Contributions to Global Learning and Workforce Development Through Higher Education Partnerships” on Feb. 18 from 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Learn more about the conference [here](#).

USAID Funding Opportunity (Non-HED)

HED has posted a Request for Applications from the U.S. Agency for International Development to its website. Please correspond directly with the contact person identified in the announcement if you have

[University and Makerere University](#). Addressing shared development goals in Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Somalia, the partners sought to reduce the risk of regional and global disease outbreaks through community outreach and research.

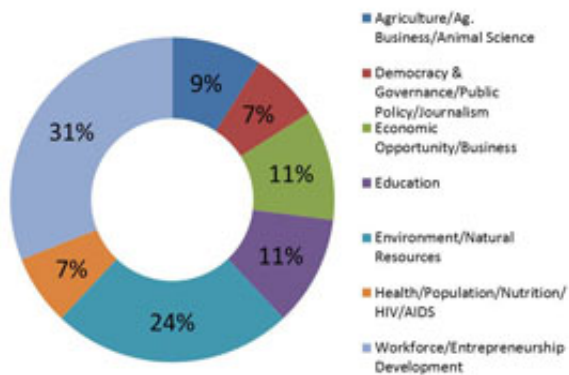
The successes of these two HED-managed partnerships are the now thriving One Health in Central and Eastern Africa and the Health Alliance promoting cross-collaborations within the region toward problem-solving and capacity building in addressing human, animal, and ecosystem health.

Read the Tulane University and Makerere University [partnership profile](#).

Fact at a Glance

In FY2013, HED managed 55 active partnerships in 41 countries. Take a look at HED's active partnerships by program area. View our [FY2013 fact sheet](#) to learn more about HED's worldwide capacity-building activities.

HED Active Partnerships by Program Area, FY2013



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any questions.

To learn more about the funding opportunity, click [here](#).

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*If you have a partnership update or an upcoming event that you would like to see highlighted in the next HED Newsletter, please send an email to **Lynn Simmonds** at lsimmonds@hedprogram.org. Feedback and suggestions for improving the HED Newsletter are also welcome. We look forward to hearing from you!*

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HED promotes higher education's engagement in international development through institutional and human capacity building in developing countries. Established in 1992 as the Association Liaison Office for University

Cooperation in Development (ALO), HED assists the nation's [six major higher education associations](#) in partnering with the [U.S. Agency for International Development \(USAID\)](#).

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