

# National Security Education Program Awards Three Pilot Flagship/ROTC Initiatives to Increase Foreign Language Proficiency in ROTC Students

*NSEP Teams with U.S. Higher Education Institutes to provide superior ROTC foreign language programming*

**Arlington, Virginia, September 30, 2011:** The National Security Education Program (NSEP) announced today that three grants have been awarded through the Institute of International Education (IIE) to develop Pilot Flagship/ROTC Initiatives at U.S. institutions of higher education. Arizona State University, North Georgia College and State University, and The Georgia Institute of Technology will lead these first programs to provide opportunities for ROTC cadets and midshipmen to engage in intensive foreign language programs and overseas study leading to superior level language proficiency on the ACTFL scale. The students will complete their ROTC requirements, their discipline requirements for an academic major, and intensive instruction in Chinese language coupled with a capstone year overseas that includes direct enrollment classes in China and an internship in China that is relevant to their professional interests. The objective of this pilot initiative is to increase the number of ROTC cadets with professional-level proficiency in critical languages. The pilot program will focus on proficiency in Mandarin Chinese.

Established by NSEP in 2002, The Language Flagship is a national effort to change the way Americans learn languages. The Language Flagship works closely with U.S. colleges and universities to create graduates of all majors and professions with professional-level language skills in languages critical to U.S. national security. Since its creation in 2002, The Language Flagship has created opportunities for over 2,000 U.S. college and university students to achieve proficiency in languages critical to national and economic security. Partnering with U.S. academic institutions nationwide and institutions overseas, The Language Flagship has created a ground breaking language learning program to create a pipeline of professionals highly skilled in Arabic, Chinese, Hindi-Urdu, Korean, Persian, Russian, and Swahili.

“We hope to demonstrate that ROTC cadets and midshipmen can gain professional-level language proficiency while completing all the requirements of ROTC and their demanding majors in international studies, social sciences, and engineering and sciences; these skill sets represent a critical resource for the future of our nation’s national security,” said Dr. Samuel Eisen, Director of The Language Flagship.

For more information on Pilot Flagship/ROTC Initiatives, please visit <http://www.thelanguageflagship.org/>.

## **About The National Security Education Program**

Headquartered in Arlington, VA., NSEP awarded its first scholarships and fellowships in 1994. Since then, NSEP has been at the forefront of a national effort, heightened by the events of September 11, 2001 (9/11), to create a cadre of U.S. citizens with advanced, professional-level skills in languages and cultures that are critical to our nation’s future. NSEP oversees several initiatives designed to attract, recruit, and train a future national security workforce. These initiatives include The David L. Boren Scholarships and Fellowships Programs, The Language Flagship program, Project GO, English for Heritage Language Speakers program, The National Language Service Corps, Pilot African Languages initiative, and the Pilot Flagship/ROTC Program.

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