
African Languages Initiative

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The Program in African Languages at the University of Florida with the support of the Center for African Studies and the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures successfully hosted the second African Languages Initiative (AFLI) Domestic Intensive Summer Program from 3 June – 27 July 2012 in 5 languages (Akan, Swahili, Wolof, Yoruba, and Zulu) at beginning and intermediate levels. The program is designed by the University of Florida to assist American students in acquiring high proficiency in critical languages of Africa in order to strengthen the United States' intellectual and economic competitiveness and enhance international cooperation for economic, humanitarian, and national security. The 8-week intensive language program offers select students, funded by the Boren Scholarship or Boren Fellowship programs as well as the Title VI Foreign Language and Area Study (FLAS) fellowship program, an opportunity to deepen their knowledge and experience with African languages and cultures.



AFLI is a pilot program designed to increase the number of Boren Scholars, Fellows, and alumni engaged in the study of critical languages of Africa. Its purpose is to help meet the critical need for specialists in a range of academic and professional fields who are able to oper-



ate effectively in major African languages. An initiative of the National Security Education Program (NSEP), AFLI builds off the resources of the NSEP-sponsored Boren Scholarships and Fellowships, and The Language Flagship.

The University of Florida has now successfully hosted the AFLI domestic programs for two consecutive years. The 2011 program offered only two languages, Swahili and Yoruba, and was hosted alongside the Summer Cooperative African Language Institute (SCALI) on behalf of the 12 Title VI National Resource Centers for Africa and the Association of African Studies Programs. The 2012 program consisted of five languages (Akan/Twi, Swahili, Wolof, Yoruba, and Zulu) and was open to both Boren-funded participants and FLAS fellows. Hausa will be added to our offerings in 2013, making a total of 6 languages.

A total of 43 students from 37 colleges/universities across the United States participated in the 2012 program - 34 at the beginning level and 9 at the intermediate level. 29 of the participants were Boren-funded students while the remaining 14 were FLAS-funded. At the beginning level: 19 in Swahili, 5 in Yoruba, 4

in Akan, 3 in Wolof and 3 in Zulu. At the intermediate level: 3 in Wolof, 2 in Swahili, 2 in Yoruba, 1 in Akan and 1 in Zulu.

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