**Application Form: Winter 2022 Study of the**

**U.S. Institute for Student Leaders on Social Entrepreneurship**

**Summary:**

The US Department of State and the Public Affairs Section of the US Embassy in Brazil are pleased to invite candidate nominations for the winter **2022 Study of the United States Institute (SUSI) for Student Leaders** on the topic of **Social Entrepreneurship**. The hybrid institute will consist of a three-week virtual component in January and February 2022, offering both synchronous and asynchronous activities, and a two-week in-person component tentatively scheduled for spring 2022, contingent upon health, safety, and travel conditions related to the pandemic.  Exact dates for both components will be communicated at the time of selection in November.  The program will be conducted in **English.**  Both components will be conducted and hosted by the **Institute for Training and Development (ITD)** in Amherst, Massachusetts.

1. **Program Description:**

Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSIs) for Student Leaders are intensive short-term academic programs whose purpose is to provide groups of undergraduate student leaders with a deeper understanding of the United States while simultaneously enhancing their leadership skills.  Due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, Institutes have converted to a hybrid format with virtual and in-person components.  Each Institute will include a virtual academic residency and an integrated in-person experience of approximately two weeks at the host institution in the United States.  The U.S. component will be organized taking into consideration all necessary safety guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state, local, and campus authorities.

The program will provide participants with an overview of how entrepreneurial skills can address social issues.  The Institute will review the development, history, challenges, and successes of social enterprises and community leaders, in the United States and globally.  The program will give participants a foundation in how to employ entrepreneurial skills to address social issues.  The Institute will address topics such as organizational development and management, business ethics, negotiations, emerging markets and risk analysis, microfinance, corporate social responsibility, strategic business planning and innovation, and women and minorities in entrepreneurship.  They will also be challenged to create follow-up community projects to implement in their home communities upon return.

Another Institute for Student Leaders from the Western Hemisphere on Women’s Leadership will take place concurrently and will be conducted by the University of Arizona.  Both Institutes will conclude with a virtual closing forum where participants will come together and engage in conversations on relevant topics.  During the forum, participants will have the opportunity to meet with their peers from Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Peru who are participating in the other Institute.

**CANDIDATE DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS**:

The participants are expected to be highly motivated first through third year undergraduate students from colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education, who demonstrate leadership through academic work, community involvement, and extracurricular activities.  Their fields of study will be varied and may include the sciences, social sciences, humanities, education, business, and other professional fields.  **Efforts should be made to recruit participants from diverse social and ethnic backgrounds with an emphasis on underserved and disadvantaged groups, Afro-Latinos, indigenous and minority communities, and individuals with disabilities.  Participants should represent both rural and urban areas and have little or no prior experience in the United States or elsewhere outside their home country**.

Candidates nominated for this program will:

·       All participants **must** be fully proficient in English; throughout the Institute they will need to fully understand lectures, actively participate in discussions, and read and write assignments in English.

 ·       be interested in the topic of Social Entrepreneurship;

·       be between 18 and 25 years of age;

·       have at least one semester left of their undergraduate studies and, after the in-person component, be committed to return to their home universities following completion of the program;

·       demonstrate strong leadership qualities and potential in their university and community activities;

·       indicate a serious interest in learning about the United States;

·       have a sustained high level of academic achievement, as indicated by grades, awards, and teacher recommendations;

·       demonstrate commitment to community and extracurricular university activities;

·       have little or no prior study or travel experience in the United States or elsewhere outside of their home country;

·       be mature, responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful, and inquisitive;

·       be willing and able to fully participate in an intensive virtual academic program (note that participation in the in-person program component of the Institute is expected and encouraged but not required); and,

·       during the in-person component, be comfortable with campus life, prepared to share living accommodations, and able to adjust to cultural and social practices different from those of their home country.

**Application Form**

**A. Applicant's full name, exactly as it appears in his/her passport (or national identity document).** *Clearly identify first, middle and surnames as they appear in passport/ID.*

Prefix: (Mr, Ms.).

**Surname:**

**First name**:

**B. Gender:**

**C. Date of Birth (month/day/year):** *(Please spell the month, eg: February 30, 1800)*

**D. City/State of Birth:**

**E. Country of Birth:**

**F. Country(ies) of Citizenship:**

**G. Country of Residence:**

**H. Applicant’s contact information: Home Address, Telephone and E-mail** *(please write the name of the street in Portuguese)*

Address:   
City:   
State:   
Postal Code:

(DDD): / Telephone:  / Cell phone:

E-mail:

**I. Emergency Contact information: Home Address, Telephone and E-mail** *(please write the name of the street in Portuguese)*

Name:

Address:   
City:   
State:   
Postal Code:

(DDD): / Telephone:  / Cell phone:

E-mail:

Relationship to applicant:

**J. Medical, Physical, Dietary or other Personal Considerations:** *Please state any existing medical conditions or if you are currently taking any prescription medication.  (This will not affect selection, but will enable the host institution to make any necessary accommodations.)*

**K. Academic Course, Institutions:**

Course:   
Home Institution Name:

Department:   
Expected Graduation Date:

Year in School:

Course:   
Home Institution Name:

Department:   
Expected Graduation Date:

Year in School:

**L. Work and volunteer experience:**

**M. Memberships in Associations, Clubs, etc.**

**N. Previous Experience in the United States:** *Please list any and all trips to the United States and include approximate dates and the reason for travel.*

From: To:

Purpose:

**O. Family residing in the United States:** *Please list any immediate family members who are currently residing in the United States, including city and state.*

**P. Evidence of English Fluency** *(e.g. Please provide us with your English proficiency certificate. If you don’t have a certificate, your English ability will be evaluated through a virtual personal interview).*

**Q. Please attach your most recent University Transcript** (in Portuguese)

**R. Personal Statement** - Write an essay (750 words maximum) that describes the following:

1 - Why are you interested in participating in this program? What best highlights your interest in social entrepreneurship?

2- What are your strongest qualifications for the program?

3 - As a participant, what unique qualities or perspectives will you bring to the group?

4 - How do you intend to share what you have learned when you return to Brazil? How will you apply your learnings to your community?

**T. Reference Letter** – Please provide a letter from a professor or supervisor that can attest your academic achievements and potential, leadership qualities, significant contributions to the class or university community and notable interest in the United States.