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GMF selects 44 American Marshall Memorial Fellows for 2011

WASHINGTON (November 30, 2010) — The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) announces today that 44 emerging American leaders representing 16 states and the District of Columbia have been awarded the prestigious Marshall Memorial Fellowship (MMF) for 2011. During the 24-day traveling program, fellows will develop extensive knowledge of political, economic, and social institutions and issues facing the United States and Europe.

"This was a year of growth for the American Marshall Memorial Fellowship program," said GMF President Craig Kennedy. "We initiated new selections in Detroit and Houston and know that inclusion of emerging leaders from these regions will benefit the program. There is a broader professional diversity within the new class of Fellows, with the government and business sectors strongly represented in addition to expansion in the arts, education, and the U.S. military."

The MMF program educates emerging American and European leaders on the importance of the transatlantic relationship and encourages them to collaborate on a range of international and domestic policy challenges. Fellows are selected through competitive nationwide and regional processes and come from politics, government, media, business, and the non-profit sector. American fellows spend 24 days traveling to five cities across Europe, learning about the institutions and people that drive Europe's cities, regions, countries, and multilateral systems through meetings with local counterparts.

The program began in 1982, when the inaugural group of German Fellows visited the United States. Now entering its 29th year, the program currently includes fellows from 37 European countries and the United States. GMF and its partner institutions have been instrumental in developing and maintaining a vital network on both sides of the Atlantic committed to transatlantic relations.

GMF works with partner organizations across the United States to identify and select the American Marshall Memorial Fellows. Partner organizations assisting in the 2010 selection process include the Kresge Foundation, Cleveland Foundation, Southern California Leadership Network, Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington, Citizens League of Minnesota, World Affairs Council of Houston, Leadership Greater Chicago, World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth, International Affairs Council of North Carolina, Institute for Public Policy Studies at the University of Denver, and Civic League for Regional Atlanta. National partners include the Council of State Governments, American Council of Young Political Leaders, and National League of Cities.

Also in 2011, MMF alumni in Chicago will lead the coordination of the annual Marshall Forum on Transatlantic Affairs. This conference, to be held September 8-11, 2011, is an annual gathering of MMF alumni from the United States and Europe to discuss current events affecting the transatlantic relationship. Alumni of the MMF program are a vital component of the program's success. In 2010 American alumni coordinated visits of their counterpart group of European fellows to 13 American cities, organized selection processes throughout the United States, and managed the 2010 Marshall Forum in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The Marshall Memorial Fellowship (MMF) was created by the German Marshall Fund in 1982 to introduce a new generation of European leaders to America's institutions, politics, and people. In 1999, GMF launched a companion program to expose future U.S. leaders to a changing and expanding Europe. The program attracts the best and brightest from all sectors, including politics, media, business, and nongovernmental organizations. Fellows come from across the United States and from 37 European countries (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, and the United Kingdom). GMF works closely with partners in more than 50 cities on both sides of the Atlantic to make the MMF program possible.

The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) is a non-partisan American public policy and grantmaking institution dedicated to promoting better understanding and cooperation between North America and Europe on transatlantic and global issues.

GMF does this by supporting individuals and institutions working in the transatlantic sphere, by convening leaders and members of the policy and business communities, by contributing research and analysis on transatlantic topics, and by providing exchange opportunities to foster renewed commitment to the transatlantic relationship. In addition, GMF supports a number of initiatives to strengthen democracies.

Founded in 1972 through a gift from Germany as a permanent memorial to Marshall Plan assistance, GMF maintains a strong presence on both sides of the Atlantic. In addition to its headquarters in Washington, DC, GMF has six offices in Europe: Berlin, Paris, Brussels, Belgrade, Ankara, and Bucharest. GMF also has smaller representations in Bratislava, Turin, and Stockholm.

2011 American Marshall Memorial Fellows

Alaska

Wayne Don, Chairman, NIMA Corporation

California

Dean Fealk, Partner and Group Chair, DLA Piper

Gilbert Gonzales, Director, Office of Economic and Business Policy, Office of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa

Samuel Morrissey, Principal Transportation Engineer, City of Santa Monica, California Tamara Rasberry, State Agencies Affairs Manager, Sempra Energy David Roberts, Associate Director, Local Government Relations, University of Southern California Ref Rodriguez, President and CEO, Partners for Developing Futures

Colorado

Matthew Gianneschi, Vice President, Community College of Aurora Gloria Schoch, Director of Community Relations, First Data Corporation

District of Columbia

Ajit Pai, Special Advisor to the General Counsel, Federal Communications Commission Ronald Schuster, Legislative Counsel, U.S. Coast Guard

Georgia

Jeremy Cole, Major Gifts Officer, U.S. Fund for UNICEF Amir Farokhi, Director, GeorgiaForward

Illinois

Mary Anderson, Senior Advisor to the Attorney General, Office of the Illinois Attorney General Lerry Knox, Senior Vice President, Loop Capital Alexander Perez, Journalist, NBC

Massachusetts

Ernesto Anguilla, Senior Vice President, Bank of America Sheila Lirio Marcelo, Founder and CEO, Care.com

Michigan

Tonya Allen, Vice President, Programs, Skillman Foundation Brian Balasia, President and Founder, Digerati

Minnesota

Christy Hovanetz, Senior Policy Fellow, Foundation for Excellence in Education Melissa Rahn, Senior Government Relations Specialist, Fredrikson & Byron, P.A. Nou Yang, Senior Leadership Manager, Amherst H. Wilder Foundation

Nebraska

Heath Mello, State Senator, State of Nebraska

North Carolina

Nicole Hurd, Executive Director, National College Advising Corps Cynthia O'Neal, General Counsel, Office of the Lt. Governor of North Carolina Raymond Starling, General Counsel, North Carolina Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Ohio

Colleen Gilson, Executive Director, Cleveland Neighborhood Development Coalition Gregory Peckham, Executive Director, Cleveland Public Art

Darin Siley, Director of Special Projects, Workforce and Economic Development Department, Cuyahoga Community College

Arlene Watson, Principal and Creative Director, Mobius Grey

Oklahoma

Marcia Chatelain, Assistant Professor, University of Oklahoma

Oregon

Sara Gelser, Representative, Oregon House of Representatives

Tennessee

David Cook, Teacher, Girls Preparatory School

Texas

John Ansbach, Chief Legal Officer, Mothers Against Drunk Driving
John Boerstler, Deputy Director, Office of Veterans Affairs, City of Houston, Texas
Courtney Mason, Risk & Insurance Advisor, Shell Oil Company
Nomaan Nur Mohammed, Chief Executive Officer, Dynasty Hotel Group
Andrew Price, Partner, Fulbright & Jaworski
Kevin Yu, Senior Analyst, Rates and Regulatory Affairs, Atmos Energy Corporation

Virgina

Jeremiah Sanders, Captain, U.S. Air Force

Washington State

Robert Holland, Seattle Port Commissioner, Port of Seattle Susanna Williams, Political Director/Project Manager, WinPower Strategies Kelly Wood, Assistant Attorney General, Washington Attorney General's Office