



*The rising STAR of Texas*

## TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY AWARDED 100,000 STRONG IN THE AMERICAS INNOVATION GRANT

(San Marcos, TX, April 22, 2015) —U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry announced Texas State as an awardee of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Grant at the Summit of the Americas in Panama City, Panama.

All Higher Education Institutions in the Western Hemisphere were eligible to apply. Less than 8% of proposals were funded, including the project proposed by Dr. Michael O'Malley, Chair of the Department of Counseling, Leadership, Adult Education, and School Psychology at Texas State University's College of Education; and co-authored with Ms. Tanya Long, Doctoral Research Assistant in School Improvement at Texas State.

Dr. O'Malley and Ms. Long's *Leadership and Educational Action Resource Network (LEARN)* project will create and fund learning and research abroad opportunities for Texas State University doctoral students in the field of education that engage them in cultural immersion and international fieldwork, and advance their skills in international educational research. Specifically, *Project LEARN-Chile* will design and implement a seminar course for doctoral students to conduct field research in Santiago de Chile in education and the social sciences. Delivered in partnership with Universidad Alberto Hurtado, the Jesuit University of Chile, the project will utilize a service-learning paradigm to facilitate student learning from Chilean colleagues and five community-based educational organizations while also generating research and partnerships that benefit Chilean educational systems. The students' fieldwork in Chile will culminate in a leadership roundtable organized in collaboration with Universidad Alberto Hurtado. This event will work with the Chilean community partners to collectively examine their unique educational priorities while identifying points of synergy and new collaboration across these organizations to advance educational improvement in Chile.

*Project LEARN-Chile* has developed Capacity Building Innovations to systematically address known barriers to doctoral student participation in study abroad. These include models for adult learners, strategic partnerships with a Chilean university and community-based educational organizations, the practice of international research as service-learning, and Spanish language and cross-cultural readiness preparation. Pre-departure professional development focusing on global engagement and international team development will be offered by corporate partners Dell, through the company's Global Learning Officer, and Dale Carnegie. Intensive Spanish language learning will be offered for students who are not already Spanish language fluent.

Texas State University was the only university from Texas selected in Competition 6.

The goal of 100,000 Strong in the Americas, President Obama's signature education initiative in the Western Hemisphere, is to increase the number of U.S. students studying in the Western Hemisphere to 100,000, and the number of students from Latin America and the Caribbean studying in the United States to 100,000 by the year 2020. The goal of 100,000 Strong in the Americas is to ensure that youth throughout the Western Hemisphere are prepared with cross-cultural skills necessary in the 21st century economy and to develop a generation of leaders who can engage across borders.

Learn more about *Project LEARN-Chile* at [www.projectlearn.wp.txstate.edu](http://www.projectlearn.wp.txstate.edu). Visit Universidad Alberto Hurtado at [www.uahurtado.cl](http://www.uahurtado.cl)

For further information on the 100,000 Strong in the Americas initiative, please visit their website at [www.100kstrongamericas.org](http://www.100kstrongamericas.org).

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