

Reception Welcoming Remarks

**Molly Corbett Broad
President, American Council on Education**

Library of Congress, Madison Building

March 18, 2009, 6:00 PM–8:00 PM

Welcome and Overview

- I extend a warm welcome to our Title VI/Fulbright-Hays 50th anniversary celebratory reception. Thank you for joining us.
- This anniversary is an important milestone in international and foreign language education. Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs represent a vital federal-university partnership that has paid substantial dividends to our nation for five decades. In the words of the National Academy of Sciences recent report: HEA–Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs “have served as the foundation for the internationalization of higher education in the United States,” and “have enhanced the body of knowledge about foreign languages and area studies.” These programs are more important than ever today as we face unprecedented challenges around the world that call for global competence.
- This afternoon we saw a small sample of the scholarship produced by or associated with these programs. I extend sincere gratitude to our outstanding scholars for a stimulating symposium.
- It is now my privilege to introduce two distinguished speakers. Following their introductions and remarks, we will view a video produced especially for this evening.

II. MCB Introduces Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ)

- Representative Holt, thank you for joining us. We very much appreciate your leadership role regarding Title VI in the U.S. House of Representatives, especially during the most recent reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. You have been a consistent supporter of international and foreign language programs across the federal government.
 - Rush Holt has represented Central New Jersey's 12th Congressional District since 1999.

- A former educator, Rep. Holt serves on the Committee on Education and Labor where he has worked to make college education more affordable and accessible and to strengthen the education students receive. Thanks to his efforts, students can receive upfront tuition assistance—up to \$16,000 per year—for teaching math, science, and foreign language.
- Rep. Holt has developed a reputation as a tireless advocate for his constituents. He has assisted over 18,000 constituents who have contacted his office with inquiries, producing resolutions for problems ranging from Medicare to veterans; healthcare to immigration.

Rep. Holt speaks

III. MCB Introduces James Billington.

- We so appreciate Dr. Billington’s hospitality as he is the person who made it possible for us to be here this evening. Thank you.
- James Hadley Billington was sworn in as The Librarian of Congress on September 14, 1987. He is the 13th person to hold the position since the Library was established in 1800.
- Under his leadership, the Library has expanded its public outreach, most notably in major international exhibits and through the establishment of a new National Digital Library and other electronic services for users in remote locations. And use these services, we have! In fact, the Library handles more than 5 billion transactions per year.
- In keeping with our celebration of Title VI-Hayes Fulbright, I want to call to your attention to the fact that under Dr. Billington’s leadership, the Library has placed a major bi-lingual website with the National Libraries of Russia and has launched similar joint projects with the national libraries of Brazil, Spain, France, the Netherlands, and Egypt.
- I’m proud to note that Dr. Billington is a fellow Pennsylvanian who was born on Pennsylvania’s “high hill” otherwise known as Bryn Mawr. Educated in the public schools of the Philadelphia area, he went on to earn an undergraduate degree from Princeton and his doctorate from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. Following service with the U.S. Army, he was a faculty member in History at Harvard University and Princeton.
- He served as director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Under his directorship, eight new programs were established at the Center, beginning with the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian studies. He also

founded the *Wilson Quarterly* and initiated a series of scholars' guides to educational resources in Washington.

- An author and recipient of numerous national and international honorary degrees and prestigious awards, Dr. Billington has traveled extensively building partnerships worldwide and expanding exchanges between the Library of Congress and those of other countries.
- I can think of no better person to serve as the leader for our nation's oldest federal cultural institution and great American treasure than James Billington, and I am honored to introduce you to him this evening.

James Billington speaks.

IV. MCB Introduces Video

- At this time, we are going to view the video produced for this occasion by ACE and the Coalition for International Education entitled, ***Engaging the World: U.S. Global Competence in the 21st Century***
- Our video provides a short history of Title VI and Fulbright-Hays, but more importantly, it looks forward. All the video profiles and cameos are Title VI/Fulbright-Hays beneficiaries who are making a difference in their professions. Through their professional experience, we learn their insights into the global competence our nation needs in the 21st century.
- We would like to thank our producer, Rich Field and his team at Richfield Productions, as well as our consultant, Miriam Kazanjian, for many months of hard work in making this video a reality. Miriam worked with our campuses in identifying, vetting and locating the graduates around the world, and crafting interview questions. Rich enthusiastically found creative ways to video those graduates working in remote areas of the world, from hiring a video company in Mumbai and convincing them to travel to rural India, to securing a Nepal Army video team in Kathmandu. Rich and Miriam teamed up in conducting the interviews. Some interviews took place in these remote places via conference call from separate locations in the U.S. and at all hours of the night.
- In addition, we would like to thank all the video participants, some of whom are with us this evening as well.
- And, we would like to thank the Coalition's Video Planning Committee and their campus colleagues whose collaboration and good work made this video possible.

Now please enjoy the video...

V. Show Video

8:00 PM

- Reception ends.