

## **JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ (MARCH 21, 2010)**

At the invitation of the Brazilian Minister of Education, Fernando Haddad, the U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education, Anthony W. Miller, made an official visit to Brazil on March 16-21, 2010. In Brasília, Deputy Secretary Miller met with Minister Fernando Haddad.

The officials noted with satisfaction the continued success achieved in the relationship between Brazil and the United States in the area of education cooperation and international exchange, and they expressed their wish to deepen and strengthen the working relationship between the Ministry of Education (MEC) of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the United States Department of Education (ED).

The parties affirmed their commitment to the U.S.-Brazil Partnership for Education as established through the Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) on Education of October 1997 and March 2007, between the Government of the United States of America and the Federative Republic of Brazil.

During a bilateral seminar of the U.S.-Brazil Partnership for Education, which included representatives of MEC, MRE, FNDE, INEP, ED, and the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia, participants compared the Brazilian and U.S. educational systems, including the role of the federal government and its relations with state and local education systems. They discussed administrative and resource challenges faced in both countries, as well as new initiatives undertaken by both governments to promote higher quality education for all students in their respective countries.

They shared best practices and perspectives regarding the essential role of data systems and assessment in setting education goals, measuring student performance and evaluating teachers. Particular emphasis was given to teacher training and linking resources to performance.

Participants highlighted that both Brazil and the United States are committed to promoting equity and valuing diversity in education so all students enjoy equal access to a high quality education. Each country outlined relevant civil rights laws and education statistics.

They noted advances achieved in implementing the U.S.-Brazil Joint Action Plan to Eliminate Ethnic and Racial Discrimination and Promote Equality and reaffirmed the commitments by their agencies to continue to work jointly with their societies, in both bilateral and multilateral frameworks, with the aim of eliminating all forms of discrimination. They agreed to explore cooperative projects related to promoting educational equity, and closing the racial/ethnic achievement gap, in both countries.

They highlighted the critical role of education in promoting employment, economic growth, and competitiveness, noting specifically the importance of foreign language in an increasingly interconnected global economy and the need to enhance science and technology teaching in both countries. They also recognized the growing significance of post-secondary education and welcomed ongoing discussions on how to increase exchange opportunities.

At the seminar's conclusion Minister Haddad and Deputy Secretary Miller signed a second annex to the 2007 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which expressed their intention to strengthen joint activities to improve education in each country. MEC and ED agreed to continue to cooperate at the federal level and encourage collaboration at the state and institutional levels. While cooperation will be carried out in a broad range of thematic areas, both countries intend to place special emphasis on cooperation in the following areas of mutual interest:

1. Foreign Language Learning - Brazil and the United States will strengthen cooperation and information sharing related to language learning (the study of the English language in Brazil and the study of Portuguese language in the United States), and encourage the exchange of best practices and information on the teaching of both languages.
2. Postsecondary Technical Education - To promote and increase the cooperation between U.S. Community Colleges and Brazilian Federal Institutes. In addition, to stimulate the increase in the participation of these institutions in the U.S.-Brazil Post Secondary Consortium (CAPES-FIPSE Program) administered in Brazil by the Foundation for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES) and the United States by the Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education (FIPSE).

The parties agreed to continue regular discussions on these topics and have planned a new meeting for the second semester of 2010. Deputy Secretary Miller conveyed to Minister Haddad an invitation to visit the United States in 2010.