

## JOINT STATEMENT

### **India-U.S. Higher Education Dialogue**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> India-US Higher Education Dialogue was held at New Delhi on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2014. It was Co-Chaired by Shri Satya N. Mohanty, Secretary, Higher Education, Ministry for Human Resource Development, India and Mr. Richard Stengel, U.S. Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs.

The two sides emphasized the key role of education and skills development in the people-to-people relationships between the United States and India. The commitment by both governments to promote greater collaboration in higher education and skill development underscores our shared belief that education will drive future economic growth in both countries and fuel the innovation and entrepreneurship needed to address the common challenges of 21st century.

The two sides reiterated the importance of the Higher Education Dialogue to promote enhanced opportunities for student and scholar mobility and faculty collaboration between the United States and India, including our ongoing collaboration on community colleges, improvement of workforce training, expansion of research and teaching exchanges, collaboration on education technology and innovation, and industry-academia linkages in higher education. It was agreed to share best practices on linking industry needs to curriculum development to ensure better employability.

Both the sides affirmed the importance of ongoing community college collaborations to meet Prime Minister Modi's national skills development goals. They encouraged the binational Task Force on Community Colleges that was convened earlier in the day to develop a plan for implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). They also appreciated the launch of a new program for Indian education leaders for advanced training on community college administration in the U.S. Institutions. Both sides also appreciated the importance of student exchange for building stronger people-to-people linkages between the two countries. The findings of 2014 *Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange*, released today were also shared wherein, it is reported that over

102,000 Indian students are currently studying in the United States, a six percent increase over the previous year.

In an effort to support the University Grants Commission's *Connect to India* program that aims to attract foreign students to India, the U.S. Department of State and the Ohio State University launched the new *Passport to India* website [www.PassportToIndia.com](http://www.PassportToIndia.com). The *Passport to India* initiative encourages young American leaders to seek out study and internship opportunities in India. The new website will serve as a portal to help students identify these opportunities.

Both sides also agreed that accomplishments of alumni from Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) are remarkable, and U.S. and Indian governments are proud of prior collaborations in the development of India's IITs. Looking ahead, it was also agreed to commit to enter technical level discussions to explore possible U.S.-India collaboration in the establishment and growth of a new IIT campus.

Both sides also agreed to further enhance the cooperation for faculty development and discussed to cooperate on India's Global Initiative of Academics Network (GIAN).

Both the sides encouraged Departments and Ministries on their sides to continue to evolve ambitious plans to further the partnership. Under Secretary Stengel thanked Secretary Mohanty for hosting the Higher Education Dialogue in New Delhi. They agreed to convene the next round in the United States in 2015.