

FULBRIGHT



A M B A S S A D O R



Senator J. William Fulbright (1905-1995)



“International education exchange is the most significant current project designed to continue the process of humanizing mankind to the point, we would hope, that nations can learn to live in peace.”

- Established 1946
- Sends U.S. academics and professionals overseas and brings scholars and professionals from abroad to the U.S.
- Sponsored by U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
- Administered by the Institute of International Education’s Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES)





Jeanne Maddox Toungara

- Associate Professor of History
- Howard University, Washington, DC
- African & African Diaspora History

Fulbright Scholar 1992 Côte d'Ivoire



- Researcher
- Ministère des Recherches Scientifiques
- *Kabasarana: The Making of a 19th c. Manding State*



Why I Chose to Apply

- **Professional Development:** I went to do field work on a topic I had designed in the U.S., but the richness of my experiences and discussions with colleagues --nationals of the host country-- led to new insights for my research. It was an opportunity to develop new and lasting professional and personal relationships.
- **Exposure to Different Culture and People:** Nothing can replace the deeper engagement with peoples in the host country. My exposure to Manding ways of knowing and being gave me a new perspective on my own culture. Their world views shaped my work and brought new information to my approaches to and methods of historical inquiry.
- **Make a Difference:** I use these insights to write about contemporary political culture in Côte d'Ivoire, a French-speaking African country, making its successes and challenges available to U.S. policymakers, scholars, and students. My classroom comes alive when I share anecdotes about the Fulbright experience.





Fulbright-Hayes Area Studies

Research: I spent six months in Northwestern Côte d'Ivoire searching for oral traditions and song lyrics that could explain state formation among the Manding peoples from their perspective. I was seeking an alternative interpretations to the standard methods of social analysis. I found them embedded in the Manding language and culture.





Visit [Jeanne Toungara's Ambassador Page](#)



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Professional and Personal Outcomes

Expanded Curriculum: My syllabi include opportunities to experience African peoples and cultures through museum visits, conferences, and performances as a best practice approach to learning.

Networking: My understanding of Côte d'Ivoire has led to new collaborations among U.S. colleagues, as well as those in the host country. We rallied to provide humanitarian assistance during the recent civil war, and are seeking ways to support educational reforms.

Flexibility: Simple things like running water, electricity, and paved roads are not longer taken for granted. We learned to adapt as circumstances presented themselves and gained confidence.

Rewarding Experience: My daughter went with me and attended a local school while being home schooled to keep up with her middle school curriculum. Fulbright families that experience the challenge of a different culture together have lasting memories to share.





Institutional Impact

Curriculum Development: Developed new curriculum in international affairs for a major and minor program in liberal arts and sciences. The program emphasizes language acquisition and interdisciplinary learning, as well as functional and regional expertise.

Study Abroad: Organized both short-term and semester study abroad programs. Worked with my Fulbright alumni colleagues on campus to interview students for international awards and the Fulbright program. Served as the Fulbright Campus Rep and Program Advisor to promote programs and review applications.

Enhance International Engagement: Encouraged faculty colleagues to engage in international exchanges, including Fulbright. Assisted with access to international scholars in our region through CIES lists.

Spokesperson for International Dialogue: Raised awareness about the issues between the U.S. and Côte d'Ivoire by serving as a State Department international speaker, organizing conference panels, and presenting academic papers at international conferences.





Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES)

U.S. SCHOLAR Programs offer U.S. faculty, administrators and professionals grants to lecture, conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields, or to participate in seminars.

NON-U.S. SCHOLAR Programs support the research and teaching of scholars visiting colleges and universities in the United States. These programs offer joint collaborative opportunities with U.S. Scholars.

Opportunities for U.S. INSTITUTIONS allow campuses to host Fulbright Visiting Scholars and professionals from abroad to lecture at U.S. colleges and universities.

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Other Fulbright Programs

Fulbright U.S. Student Program: For recent graduates, postgraduate candidates up through dissertation level and developing professionals and artists to study and research abroad

Fulbright Teacher Exchange Programs: Principally for primary- and secondary- level educators

Fulbright-Hays Awards: For faculty research, group projects and seminars abroad in certain social sciences and humanities fields

Learn more about IIE programs:
www.iie.org

