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CONTACT: Hilary Robertson Collado
Assistant Director, Boren Awards
Tel: 800-618-6737 ext. 1

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2023 Boren Scholars and Fellows Awarded

The Institute of International Education (IIE), on behalf of the National Security Education Program (NSEP), awarded 210 David L. Boren Scholarships to undergraduate students and 108 David L. Boren Fellowships to graduate students to add important international and language components to their educations by studying overseas in world regions critical to U.S. interests. The selected Boren Scholars and Fellows intend to study in 43 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East. They will study 33 different languages. The most popular languages include Mandarin, Arabic, Russian, Portuguese, Korean, Swahili, Turkish, Japanese, and Indonesian. This year, 541 undergraduate students applied for the Boren Scholarship and 202 graduate students applied for the Boren Fellowship.

NSEP, a component of the Defense Language and National Security Education Office (DLNSEO), is a major federal initiative designed to build a broader and more qualified pool of U.S. citizens with foreign language and international skills. NSEP's Boren Awards program provides U.S. undergraduate and graduate students with resources and encouragement to acquire language skills and experience in countries critical to the future security and stability of the United States. In exchange for funding, Boren Award recipients agree to work in the federal government for a period of at least one year. "The National Security Education Program," according to Dr. Clare Bugary, Director of DLNSEO, "has transformed how U.S. higher education approaches the study of foreign languages and cultures of the world and provides Americans opportunities to learn, grow and serve."

Since 1994, over 7,700 students have received Boren Awards and contributed their vital skills to careers in support of the critical missions of agencies throughout the federal government. "To continue to play a leadership role in the world, it is vital that America's future leaders have a deep understanding of the rest of the world," says former U.S. Senator David Boren, the principal author of the legislation that created the National Security Education Program and the scholarships and fellowships that bear his name. "As we seek to lead through partnerships, understanding of other cultures and languages is absolutely essential."

An independent not-for-profit founded in 1919, IIE is among the world's largest and most experienced international education and exchange organizations. Undergraduate and graduate students interested in applying for the Boren Awards should contact IIE at boren@iie.org or visit borenawards.org.