

Bennett College and IREX Form Partnership to Introduce Russian Studies Curriculum

GREENSBORO, NC – Ambassador W. Robert Pearson, President of IREX and Dr. Millicent C. Rainey, Interim Provost at Bennett College officially kicked off the IREX/Bennett partnership with a grant signing ceremony recently at the College.

Bennett College was selected as one of two institutional grantees of the Teaching Fellowship Program for Eastern Europe and Eurasian Studies, a program designed and piloted by IREX in the fall of 2008 to establish and support a new post-doctoral teaching position in Eastern European and/or Eurasian area studies at accredited Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) throughout the United States. The program provides these institutions of higher learning with the necessary means to build their capacity to expand coursework in Eastern European and Eurasian Studies, ultimately drawing a diverse group of undergraduate students to the field and encouraging them to pursue careers in international affairs.



Ambassador W. Robert Pearson and Dr. Millicent C. Rainey sign grant award documents.



The IREX grant (\$90,000) will support the college in developing and introducing a new Russian studies curriculum on campus for the first time in its history, and will further assist the college in strengthening its internationalization initiatives and exposing its students to global cultures and perspectives.

IREX is an international nonprofit organization providing leadership and innovative programs to improve the quality of education, strengthen independent media, and foster pluralistic civil society development. Founded in 1968, IREX has an annual budget of over \$60 million and a staff of 500

professionals worldwide. IREX and its partner IREX Europe deliver cross-cutting programs and consulting expertise in more than 100 countries.

Bennett College for Women is a small, private, historically black liberal arts college. The college offers women an education conducive to excellence in scholarly pursuits; preparation for leadership roles in the workplace, society, and the world; and life-long learning in a technologically advanced, complex global society. As a United Methodist Church-related institution, Bennett College for Women promotes morally grounded maturation, intellectual honesty, purposeful public service, and responsible civic action.



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Ambassador Pearson and Dr. Rainey are joined by Cinnamon Hunter, Director, International Education & Global Studies at Bennett College.