

Information on the Humphrey Program:

Mayor John Engen: "During the last two weeks, I've met with visitors from around the globe who are making the world smaller and better by sharing their culture, experience and enthusiasm for learning about Missoula and the United States. These visits remind me, in a period of remarkable divisiveness, that we have much in common and plenty to celebrate as human beings. The Humphrey Fellows program is another fine example of the fact that when we're intentional about learning from one another, great things can happen".

Humphrey Fellowship Program provides a year of professional enrichment in the United States for professionals from designated countries throughout the world. Its primary funding is provided by the U.S. Congress through the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. In order to benefit fully from the exchange experience, the fellows participate first in an intensive 3-months English language training program, which is offered through ELI between May and August.

This year's group has representatives from Republic of Georgia, Senegal, Chile, Ecuador, Niger, Central African Republic, Benin, Burma, Nepal, Columbia, Iran, Mongolia, Mexico, Togo and Cuba, are with us in Missoula. After their intensive English language training, the fellows continue their 9-months exchange experience studying in their professional areas at prestigious universities across the United States. "This is truly mutual cultural exchange. While the fellows are working towards their English proficiency, they are also learning about American cultures, values, customs and traditions, while being cultural ambassadors of their home countries", according to Dr. Udo Fluck, Director of Global and Cultural Affairs. Collaborating with Jeanie Castillo, ELI Chair and Sarah Bortis, in charge of ELI's Special Programs at UM, builds a bridge between campus and the city and fosters cultural diplomacy.