



National Security
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Press Release

National Security Education Program Announces 9th Annual Boren Alumni Award Winners

Arlington, Virginia, September 24, 2015: The National Security Education Program (NSEP) is pleased to announce its 9th annual NSEP Boren Alumni Award winners. Aysa Miller of Auburn, WA has been named the 2015 *Howard Baker, Jr. Award* winner, and Ted Biggs of Discovery Bay, CA has been named the 2015 *Sol Linowitz Award* winner.

NSEP has awarded more than 5,200 scholarships and fellowships to U.S. students to study languages and cultures of the world that are critical to U.S. interests and underrepresented in study abroad, including Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin American, and the Middle East. NSEP's award recipients, Boren Scholars and Fellows, commit to pursuing national security-related public service following their experiences overseas; accordingly, it pays tribute each year to the extraordinary contributions made by one Boren Scholar and one Boren Fellow to our nation's defenses.

The *Howard Baker, Jr. Award* was named in honor of Senator Howard Baker and is awarded annually to a former undergraduate Boren Scholar. Senator Baker had an outstanding career in public service, serving as a three-term U.S. Senator from Tennessee. While in the United States Senate, he was Majority Leader for four years. After retiring from the Senate, Senator Baker returned to public service as President Reagan's White House Chief of Staff and as Ambassador to Japan under President George W. Bush.

This year's *Howard Baker, Jr. Award* winner, **Mr. Aysa Miller**, is a U.S. State Department Foreign Service Officer, currently stationed at U.S. Embassy Khartoum, Sudan. Mr. Miller has more than nine years of experience in international relations, economics, and consular services. He has represented the United States in Brazil, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. To date, Mr. Miller has written a dozen highly acclaimed cables on Sudan's economy, its investment climate, its oil and gas sector, sanctions and its trade relations. Mr. Miller supports US commercial interests as it relates to agriculture and gum Arabic. He has promoted multimillion dollar sales of U.S.-manufactured agricultural equipment, dairy cows and inputs and singlehandedly worked to ensure the participation of the first team from Africa in a major international business case competition at his alma mater, the University of Washington.





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The *Sol Linowitz Award* was named in honor of Ambassador Sol Linowitz and is awarded to a former graduate Boren Fellow. Ambassador Linowitz was trained as a lawyer and became the General Counsel, and later Chairman of the Board of the Xerox Corporation. President Lyndon Johnson appointed Mr. Linowitz as Ambassador to the Organization of American States in 1966. He later served as a co-negotiator for the Panama Canal Treaties, and from 1979-1981 as President Carter's personal representative to the Middle East Peace Negotiations.

This year's *Sol Linowitz Award* winner, **Mr. Ted Biggs**, is an Analyst with U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM). Upon completion of his doctoral research, Mr. Biggs moved to Hawaii, where he provides culturally informed assessments in support of PACOM theater engagement, regional cooperation, humanitarian and disaster relief crisis responses.

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness, Mr. Daniel Feehan, presented Mr. Miller and Mr. Biggs with their awards at the Boren Scholarship and Fellowship Federal Employment Seminar on Thursday, September 17, 2015. The awards ceremony took place at the Washington Marriott Georgetown in Washington, DC.