

## **Peace Corps University Programs Shine at CDC**

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention invite returned Peace Corps volunteers to national recruitment event.*

Of 41 returned Peace Corps volunteers invited to a March recruiting event in Atlanta organized by the Centers for Disease Control, fully 19 belonged to a select group of students who have participated in Peace Corps graduate school programs. The Peace Corps offers two options for graduate students: Master's International, where students combine graduate studies with their Peace Corps service; and Fellows/USA, where former volunteers receive fellowships to enroll in their choice of graduate school programs across the country.

"It is a tribute to the quality of Peace Corps graduate programs that they are attracting the special attention of recruiters," said Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams. "For a quarter century, the Peace Corps has been developing partnerships with institutions of higher learning across the country, and the results are a cadre of quality professionals with rich experience, top educations, and demonstrated dedication and grit."

The Centers for Disease Control and many other federal agencies may find Peace Corps graduate school alumni particularly appealing due to this winning combination of field experience, rigorous graduate training, and also due to their noncompetitive eligibility status, or NCE. NCE allows federal recruiters to bring on qualified candidates with fewer formalities than normally required by the governmental hiring process. Returned Peace Corps volunteers are awarded NCE for the first year after their close of service, and this status can be extended for students attending graduate school.

The Peace Corps Master's International program began at Rutgers University–Camden in 1987 and combines Peace Corps service with master's degree studies. Participating graduate students typically finish one year of study at their university before serving 27 months abroad with the Peace Corps. Upon their return, they then complete any requirements necessary for graduation. Further information on Master's International is available at [www.peacecorps.gov/masters](http://www.peacecorps.gov/masters).

Fellows/USA started in 1985 at Teachers College, Columbia University and celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The program is specifically reserved for students who have already completed their tenure abroad with the Peace Corps. In a special feature of this program, participating students apply the experience they have gleaned as Peace Corps Volunteers to internships in underserved U.S. communities. More details can be found at [www.peacecorps.gov/fellows](http://www.peacecorps.gov/fellows).

*As Peace Corps approaches its 50th anniversary, its service legacy continues to promote peace and friendship around the world with 7,671 volunteers serving in 76 host countries. Historically, nearly 200,000 Americans have served with the Peace Corps to promote a better understanding between Americans and the people of 139 host countries. Peace Corps volunteers must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years of age. Peace Corps service is a 27-month commitment. To learn more about the Peace Corps, please visit our website: [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov).*