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First-Ever Youth Ambassadors Summit to Launch Network to Develop Leadership Skills, Foster New Generation of Leaders

Washington, D.C., November 29, 2010 – From December 3-5, 2010, the U.S. Department of State and Partners of the Americas will bring 50 youth leaders from 19 countries in the Western Hemisphere together in Panama City, Panama to launch the first-ever Youth Ambassadors Network at the Youth Ambassador Summit. The Summit is focused on creating innovative opportunities to help youth develop leadership skills and cultivate a new generation of leaders.

“Today’s Youth Ambassador’s will be the leaders of tomorrow. In the Western Hemisphere alone, nearly one-third of the population is under the age of 20. We must engage with these young people now as they develop the skills, ideas, and values that will shape our future,” said Ann Stock, Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The *Youth Ambassador Program* is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The program brings together youth, ages 15-18, from across the Americas to build understanding among countries, increase leadership skills, and prepare young leaders to be positive agents of change through volunteer service. The youth engage with local government and civic organizations, build relationships with host families and other youth, and participate in skills-based trainings that enable and empower them to mobilize their communities towards positive change.

Key partners in implementing the Youth Ambassadors Program include: Partners of the Americas, Georgetown University, World Learning, Sister Cities and the International Young Men’s Christian Organization. To learn more go to www.partners.net or <http://exchanges.state.gov/youth/programs/ylp/current-youth-leaderships-programs.html>.

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About Partners of the Americas

[Partners of the Americas](http://www.partners.net) is an international grassroots network. We connect volunteers, institutions and communities to serve and to change lives. Inspired by President Kennedy, today Partners is one of the largest volunteer-based organizations in the Western Hemisphere engaged in social, economic and cultural development. By linking Latin America and the Caribbean with counterparts in the United States, Partners acts in long term, focused partnership with the people and places of the Americas. For more information, visit www.partners.net.

