FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 23, 2024,

Doaa Rashed, Ph.D. Selected by U.S. Department of State for Prestigious English Language Specialist Project

The U.S. Department of State announced the selection of Dr. Doaa Rashed of Rutgers University-New Brunswick for a two-week English Language Specialist project focusing on curriculum mapping and implementation in Kiribati at the Ministry of Education. Rashed is part of a select group, as her project is one of over 250 that the English Language Specialist Program supports each year.

The project will focus on reviewing and revising Year 12 English curriculum to ensure alignment with the National Educational Standards and Objectives in Kiribati. She will also collaborate with the Ministry of Education's Curriculum Development Unit to establish clear language proficiency standards, assessment criteria and benchmarks for the students. Further, she will provide effective teaching strategies and assessment methods workshops to secondary school English teachers to support the implementation of the new curriculum. As part of the select group supported by the English Language Specialist Program, Rashed’s expertise will contribute to enhancing English language education, and ensuring a cohesive and progressive sequence of learning outcomes, identifying areas where the curriculum can be enhanced to promote continuity and coherence across grade levels.

The English Language Specialist Program is the premier opportunity for leaders in the field of teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) to enact meaningful and sustainable changes in the way that English is taught abroad. Through projects developed by U.S. Embassies in more than 80 countries, English Language Specialists work directly with local teacher trainers, educational leaders, and ministry of education officials to exchange knowledge, build capacity, and establish partnerships benefiting participants, institutions, and communities in the United States and overseas.

Since 1991, the English Language Specialist Program has supported in-country, virtual, and mixed projects in which hundreds of TESOL scholars and educators promote English language learning, enhance English teaching capacity, and foster mutual understanding between the U.S. and other countries through cultural exchange. During their projects, English Language Specialists may conduct intensive teacher training, advise ministries of education or participate in high-level educational consultations, and offer plenary presentations at regional, national or international TESOL conferences. These projects are challenging and those selected represent the best of the U.S. TESOL community. In return, the program provides professional development opportunities to help participants experience different cultures and build skills that can greatly enhance their TESOL careers at home.

English Language Specialists are counted among the more than 50,000 individuals participating in U.S. Department of State exchange programs each year. The Specialist Program is administered by the Center for Intercultural Education and Development at Georgetown University.

For further information about the English Language Specialist Program or the U.S. Department of State, please visit elprograms.org/specialist, contact us by telephone at 202-632-6452, or e-mail ECA-Press@state.gov.