A NEW BEGINNING: Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation

President Obama announced this special initiative at the April 2010 Summit on Entrepreneurship in Washington, D.C. In recognition of entrepreneurship as a driver of job creation and economic growth, this initiative builds ties between American entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs in emerging markets, developing nations, and in disadvantaged communities of developed countries.

A NEW BEGINNING (ANB): Building Networks

This is the concluding year of a four-year initiative organized by the U.S. Department of State, as a special initiative of the International Visitor Leadership Program. Each year the project brings 30 leading entrepreneurs to the United States to exchange best practices with American business owners, investors, government officials, educators and other business stakeholders. The project is designed to:

• Create networking opportunities to share innovative entrepreneurial business strategies
• Highlight the variety of market niches served by successful entrepreneurs and innovators
• Explain partnerships that link capital, business development services and market access
• Introduce social entrepreneurs who are filling gaps between government and the private sector

The Department of State is developing this project in partnership with the Entrepreneurs’ Organization (EO), a network of 8,000 business owners in 40 countries. EO will engage participants in these interactive sessions:

• Business seminars on strategy, sales and marketing, human resources, and finances
• Small group “forums” in which participants and U.S. entrepreneurs share growth strategies
• Peer-to-peer exchanges matching each participant with a U.S. entrepreneur engaged in a similar business enterprise

A NEW BEGINNING 2013: September 16–October 4

The program opens in Washington, DC. Next, the group splits to visit either Denver or Portland, Oregon. The delegation reunites in Dallas, and then concludes the project in New York City.

ALUMNI REFLECTIONS ON THE ANB EXPERIENCE:
An inspiration for action and sharing

• A participant from Bahrain said ANB gave her the “right motivation” to run for Parliament, and today she is one of only three women serving in the Parliament of Bahrain.
• A participant from Uganda credits ANB for his success in opening a new dairy, expanding the community of farmers he employs.
• A participant from Brunei decided to franchise her restaurant business and was asked by the government of Brunei to create a franchise association to help grow the national economy.
• More than 30 ANB alumni maintain regular communication with each other to share experiences and offer support as they grow their businesses.