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# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Azerbaijani Education Officials to Visit the U.S. to Study the University Entrance Examination System**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is sponsoring an Educational Testing Study Tour for a diverse and influential group of government and university officials to examine how the testing and admission system works in the United States. The participants include representatives from the State Student Admission Commission, the Ministry of Education, the Parliamentary Commission on Education and Science, the Presidential Apparatus and several public and private universities. The Educational Testing Study Tour is being administered by World Learning and will take place in Princeton, New Jersey from February 6 – 17, 2006.

The participants will attend courses at the Educational Testing Service, the premier independent testing agency in the United States, an institution with extensive experience working with Ministries of Education in over 35 countries to strengthen the academic performance of students. The study tour will focus on improving the national exam structure to be more consistent with western standards, university entry methodology, and promoting transparency in the education system. The participants will also meet with academic leaders of the College of New Jersey to learn first hand how standardized test data and other factors are used to evaluate incoming students and support a competitive admissions policy.

Upon their return, the study tour participants will prepare for a subsequent assessment of the educational testing system in Azerbaijan by a team from Educational Testing Service in May 2006.