



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 13, 2018

Prof. Jennifer Thomas
Howard University
Department of Media Journalism & Film
525 Bryant Street
Washington, DC 20059

Dear Professor Thomas,

On behalf of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP), I am pleased to confirm your participation in a virtual *U.S. Speaker Program* to discuss the importance of media literacy with educators, students and journalists in Africa (a viewing group will be held in Kenya) and in other regions around the world.

This virtual program is scheduled to take place from 8:00am – 9:00am EST on World Press Freedom Day on Thursday, May 3, 2018. You will be on camera in our studio as part of a panel of media experts who will discuss the importance of media literacy in today's fragmented media landscape.

Topics to be discussed will include ways that educators and students can develop their skills in understanding the credibility of media sources and recognizing and challenging fake news. This program will also explore existing resources with educators, students, and journalists in global communities, and will allow students and educators to share concerns and "leading practices" from their experiences with media literacy. The program will also be promoted on Facebook.

I will be in touch to let you know when we will have a planning call with our office, the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL), our contacts at the US Embassy in Nairobi, the moderator and other panelists to discuss the format of the program.

As your Program Officer at the U.S Department of State, I will have primary responsibility for this project, including coordination and communication with our offices and staff overseas, and with our technical and administrative partners here in the U.S.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our local partner and program administrator – World Learning, Inc. World Learning will be responsible for handling disbursement of funds associated with this project, and a project evaluation. They will be in direct contact with you soon to begin financial arrangements.

World Learning is a nonprofit organization advancing leadership in more than 60 countries. For over 80 years, they have envisioned a just world driven by engaged citizens and thriving communities. To achieve this goal, they provide education, exchange, and development programs that empower people and strengthen institutions. More detailed information on the organization's background and activities may be found at <http://www.worldlearning.org/about-us/history/>.