Sponsor: Department of State (DOS)
Program: WEAmericas Accelerator
Estimated Award Amount: up to $2,277,227 over 3 years
JHU Nomination Limit: 1
For more detailed information: DOS WEAmericas Accelerator

The WEAmericas Accelerator project will replicate an existing, proven, and successful small-business accelerator project in Central America for women entrepreneurs over a three-year period. Through an accelerator project consisting of intensive training and advisory support for at least three cohorts of at least 75 total women entrepreneurs, mentoring and counseling will be provided to women entrepreneurs from business experts, and will offer an opportunity to present business plans to potential investors upon successful completion of the accelerator project. This project seeks to achieve a gender balance in the business environment in Central America and promote gender equality for women entrepreneurs in accessing training, mentorship opportunities, new markets, and capital, to develop and expand their business and networks.

In order to fulfill this purpose and meet this goal, this project will:

- Design and conduct workshops and technical training in Central America for women entrepreneurs and business owners that help them refine a business plan, strategic direction, and business processes; provide other capacity-building assistance; and improve their access to markets, capital, and ultimately growth potential of women-owned businesses in Central America.
- Provide access to one-on-one and group advising and mentoring sessions, and other specialized guidance to further develop women-owned enterprises.
- Convene investors, financial institutions, and private-sector companies for a capstone presentation event at the end of each cohort, promoting investment in the growth of women-owned businesses in Central America, and connecting women entrepreneurs to other appropriate capital access opportunities.

Eligibility & Requirements:
- No restrictions on who may serve as principal investigator.

Internal Nomination Process:

Interested applicants should send the following documents in sequence in one PDF to resapp@jhu.edu no later than **4 p.m. on May 20, 2016**:

1. JHU Limited Submission Cover Sheet
2. Abstract (one page, double-spaced)
3. Proposal (maximum of four pages of text only, single spaced: 12-pt font and one-inch margins)
   (Note: figures, tables, and other reference material should not be included as text)
4. Curriculum Vitae of investigator, including current external research support and publications
5. Budget (two pages maximum)
6. Letter of Recommendation from the Department Chair/Director. Letters of Recommendation can be submitted separately to resapp@jhu.edu stating the applicant’s name in the subject line.

Each applicant should expect to receive a confirmation of receipt of their materials. If an applicant does not receive an acknowledgement, or has any questions, please contact Brittany McMahon via resapp@jhu.edu.