



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **FORTY TWO SALVADORANS RECEIVE CASS SCHOLARSHIPS**

**SAN SALVADOR**– The U.S. Embassy, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and in conjunction with the Cooperative Association of States for Scholarships (CASS) and the Georgetown University's Center for Intercultural Education and Development (CIED), delivered this morning scholarships to 42 Salvadorans to study in several U.S. educational institutions.

The new scholars will obtain academic training on important fields, such as rural primary education for at-risk-children; integrated natural resources technology; water management; HIV/AIDS prevention and outreach; agribusiness for export; electronics technology for manufacturing; small and medium enterprise management and marketing; basic electronics/computer repair for deaf students; quality control; and strengthening youth serving organizations.

The CASS Scholarship Program is funded by USAID and is administered by Georgetown University. To date, 636 Salvadorans have benefited from the CASS Scholarship Program, an investment that exceeds U.S. \$17 million.

The scholarship award ceremony was held at the Radisson Hotel and was attended by the Vice Minister of Education, José Luis Guzmán; the Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy, Michael Butler; the USAID El Salvador Director, Deborah Kennedy-Iraheta; the CASS Program National Coordinator, Jose Alfredo Bonilla; and the Salvadoran Association of Former CASS Scholars representative, Dora Luz Baires, as well as the new scholars and their relatives.

From a group of 630 applicants, 42 men and women were selected to receive scholarships to study at U.S. community colleges and universities. Total investment for these 42 scholarships is U.S. \$1,084,000.

CASS is a regional scholarship program that finances technical and leadership training for economically disadvantaged youth and rural professionals from Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. The program is currently active in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Mexico, and El Salvador.

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