

# CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN-WESTERN DIALOGUE

## *Resource Summary*

(\$ in thousands)

Appropriations	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 CR	FY 2012 Request
Funds	875	875	840

### *Program Description*

The FY 2004 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 108-199) created the Center for Middle Eastern-Western Dialogue Trust Fund to support the operations of the Center.

The Center’s mission is to promote dialogue between the United States and the nations of the Middle East, Turkey, North Africa, and Central, Southwest, and Southeast Asia, as well as other countries with predominantly Muslim populations to open channels of communication, deepen cross-cultural understanding, expand people-to-people contacts, generate new thinking on important international issues, and identify solutions.

The Center has fully established itself as an independent nonprofit and is convening meetings for U.S. and regional experts about key issues of Middle Eastern-Western concern. The Center has conducted program activities in Istanbul while planning for a permanent office there.

The Center has organized conferences with topics focused on universities and higher education through special colloquia on independent universities. Conference topics include a two-part “Next generation” dialogue bringing together emerging political, cultural, business and community leaders under age 40 from the United States and Egypt; the Caspian Sea and its neighbors, unity and diversity in Iraq, and the future of Afghanistan. The Center will continue to connect Iranian and U.S. scholars and experts by including Iranian citizens in its conferences when possible, and the Board of Directors will continue to identify potential partners in the U.S., as well as, the broader Middle East and North Africa region and make recommendations for program activities and institutional management of the Center. The Center will also continue to develop programs of cooperative study, training, and research for students and scholars to exchange views and ideas.

### *Justification of Request*

The FY 2012 budget seeks appropriation authority to spend \$840,000 in estimated earnings of the Center for Middle Eastern-Western Dialogue Trust Fund. These funds will be used for operations of the Center.

## *Funds by Object Class*

(\$ in thousands)

	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 CR	FY 2012 Request
4100 Grants, Subsidies & Contrb	875	875	840
<b>Total</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>840</b>