



PRESS RELEASE

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The Cordell Hull Foundation for International Education, New York

Announcement of extension to 5-year term for Greek teachers in J-visa status

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In March, 2010, after a year of meetings, documentation submissions and communications, the Cordell Hull Foundation was able to obtain permission from the U.S. State Department to extend the term of Greek government-paid teachers in J-1 visa status to five years. The agreement was reached in an inter-departmental meeting without any political intervention. No third parties, groups or individuals were involved. The decision was made strictly subsequent to private discussions with the State Department.

Chris Palaidis, Director of the St. Nicholas Greek School in Florida, wrote a letter to the Department of State in December 2009 to request expansion for the Greek language and culture afternoon, weekend and evening school to qualify for Greek government-paid teachers. He mentioned the Cordell Hull Foundation in his letter, then shared the State Department response with CHF in early March 2010.

The Cordell Hull Foundation then gathered documentation and scheduled a private meeting with the State Department in mid-March, during which the 5-year term was granted.

A wealthy Greek-American woman, who hosted a luncheon in the Rayburn Building in Washington, DC in October 2009, subsequently wrote a press release "thanking the attendees for achieving the 5-year J-1 visa term." Other than the Cordell Hull Foundation, no one else at the luncheon had even requested a meeting on the 5-year J-1 visa extension.

If any one person deserves praise and congratulations for his courage, ingenuity, and faith, it is Chris Palaidis, Director of St. Nicholas School in Tarpon Springs, Florida. Without his effective letter and bold action, the opportunity to clarify mistaken information about the Greek program in the internal meeting would never have presented itself to CHF.

After receiving official confirmation that the extension would be granted, CHF worked with Hon. Aglaia Balta, Consul General of Greece in New York, to communicate the good news

through proper Greek government diplomatic channels. The exception for Greek-government paid teachers was granted in the spirit of continuing good relations and mutual understanding with the Greek government, the purpose of the Exchange Visitor Program.

In addition to the Cordell Hull Foundation, other J-1 exchange visa sponsoring organizations may also extend the J-1 visa terms of government-sponsored Greek teachers for an additional two (2) years for a maximum of five (5) years if they so choose.

If you have any questions concerning the recent additional two-year extension for Greek teachers, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

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