



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

September 27, 2004

News Release

DHS HELPS STUDENTS FROM HURRICANE DEVASTATED ISLAND

Students from Grenada's St. George University to Continue Fall Studies in United States

WASHINGTON, D.C.— U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) today announced an effort, in coordination with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the U.S. Department of State, to assist students from St. George University (SGU) in Grenada who choose to continue their studies this fall in the United States. ICE's Student Exchange and Visitor Information System (SEVIS), a web-based system that maintains information on international students and exchange visitors in America, is facilitating this procedure.

On September 6, 2004, Hurricane Ivan devastated the island of Grenada, killing 20 people, wiping out power, flattening homes and destroying many schools. St. George University (SGU) was among the educational institutions that were severely damaged.

"The academic community requested assistance with this unique circumstance, and through SEVIS, we're able to immediately respond," said Susan Geary, Acting Director of ICE's Student Exchange and Visitor Program (SEVP). "Last year, SEVIS simplified and secured what was a manual process, this fall it facilitated the entry of an increased number of foreign students and exchange visitors, and today it is enabling students impacted by disaster to continue with their education."

SGU has made arrangements with affiliated universities to provide interested students with the opportunity to complete the fall 2004 semester in the United States. Approximately 225 students will enter from Grenada to attend SEVIS-approved schools, including: Barry University, FL; New York Institute of Technology, NY; Purdue University, IN; Kansas State University, KS; and North Carolina State University, NC.

ICE, CBP and the Department of State have responded quickly to create a procedure whereby the students would be allowed entry into the United States, be issued temporary documents, report to the designated universities immediately, and then submit completed, supporting documentation from the universities within 30 days of arrival. The students will be allowed to study in the United States through December 31, 2004, which may be extended, if the situation at SGU does not allow for spring semester classes.

As of September 17, 2004, more than 838,000 students and exchange visitors (F-1, M-1 and J-1 visa categories), along with more than 120,000 of their dependents, were registered with SEVIS.

ICE