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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 26, 2012

Contact: Adisa Busuladzic

Phone: +93 (0) 702636328

Email: [ABusuladzic@state.gov](mailto:ABusuladzic@state.gov)

## Newly Constructed Faculty of Education Opens in Herat

**HERAT, AFGHANISTAN | MARCH 26, 2012** – Today the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) officially opened the Faculty of Education at Herat University. Deputy U.S. Ambassador James B. Cunningham, USAID Acting Mission Director Jeffrey W. Ashley, Herat Governor Dr. Daud Shah Saba, Chairman of the Herat Provincial Council Dr. Zaher Faizada, Acting Chancellor of Herat University Nasir Rahyab, Dean of the Education Faculty Juma Hanif and other high-ranking U.S. and Afghan Government officials attended the ceremony.

The facility includes modern laboratories, classrooms, and offices, and is one of six new faculty of education buildings funded by USAID at universities in Bamyan, Parwan, Balkh, Faryab, Jawzjan and Herat. The new facilities meet international building standards and will provide students with a safe learning environment. The construction of these buildings is being implemented by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

“We are proud that this building will help Herat University continue to modernize, grow and meet the needs of its student body,” - said Deputy U.S. Ambassador James B. Cunningham.

The Faculties of Education Project is a component of USAID’s Higher Education Project (HEP), which supports the Ministry’s efforts to improve the quality of academics in Afghanistan.

“Since 2003 there have been considerable improvements in the professional capacity of the professors of this University because of the help of USAID,” said Dean Juma Hanif.

USAID’s Higher Education Project was designed in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education and works with institutions offering four-year teacher education programs in Afghanistan to strengthen planning and faculty skills through training, scholarships, and material support.

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