

## Sharmistha Banerjee Arrives in United States for Global Links Program

Indian Scholar begins nine-month entrepreneurial program developed by the US Secretary of State's Office of Global Women's Issues, Tupperware Brands and Rollins College



**JANUARY 15 – ORANDLO, FL** – The innovative [Global Links](#) program, spearheaded by Tupperware Brands, Rollins College and the US Office of Global Women's Issues, welcomes its first professor from India this week. Dr. Sharmistha Banerjee, a professor of business from the University of Calcutta and a Fulbright scholar who studied women's empowerment in South Korea and Kenya, will be the first Indian scholar to participate in the cross-cultural exchange program that trains female professors in best-in-class social entrepreneurship.

The premise of the program is to inspire a new generation of entrepreneurs by empowering women through education and opportunity that would begin with a single business or economics professor, from post-conflict or developing countries, who would come to the United States to be immersed in a hands-on experience of academic residency and externship, and upon the professor's return home she would implement the curriculum at her university and the students would then put their knowledge to practice by mentoring women in the community to start or scale their small enterprises.

"As the Faculty Mentor for the Global Links program I am thrilled by the opportunity to work closely with like-minded professors who believe that through social entrepreneurship education and skill building we can enhance women's lives, empower them socially and financially, while also shaping a more robust future for women across the globe. Through this program, Rollins' mission comes alive for our students and faculty," said Dr. Mary Conway Dato-on Global Links Faculty Mentor and Professor at Rollins College Crummer Graduate School of Business.

Dr. Banerjee, who earned her Ph.D. in Management from the University of Calcutta, will augment her entrepreneurship and management training at Rollins College by participating in social entrepreneurship courses and attending high-profile events including a conference at AshokaU and meetings at the State Department. Ambassador Cathy Russell's Office of Global Women's Issues, a founding partner of the Global Links program, continues their commitment of championing women's economic empowerment in India and is thrilled to see the program expanding in India.

"The private sector plays an essential role in accelerating women's economic participation. Public-private partnerships represent one avenue for industry and business to drive significant investments in women and girls in India. Programs like Global Links illustrate the impact that's possible when government, business and academia work together," said Catherine Russell, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues.



Global Links was piloted with an Iraqi professor, Dr. Amel Abed Mohammed Ali, from Babylon University in 2011. Dr. Mohammed Ali successfully implemented the curriculum at Babylon University and her students assisted 75 women in starting their own enterprises. As part of the program, Dr. Mohammed Ali also implemented a career center at Babylon University.

“The *Global Links* program brings to life our global mission to empower women, enable their financial independence and change their lives through opportunity, support and relationships – we call this the Chain of Confidence. We’re thrilled to welcome Dr. Banerjee our first scholar from India and look forward to further growing our Global Links program in India ,” said Rick Goings, Tupperware Brands Chairman and CEO.

Dr. Banerjee’s arrival marks the beginning of the 2015 Global Links program and kicks off the expansion into India. Over the course of 2015, the partners plan to scale the Global Links program to include additional corporate partners, academic institutions and non-profits. To find out more about the Global Links program click here. To download images of Dr. Banerjee’s arrival click here.

#### **About Tupperware Brands Corporation**

Tupperware Brands Corporation is the leading global marketer of innovative, premium products across multiple brands utilizing a relationship-based selling method through an independent sales force of 2.9 million. Product brands and categories include design-centric preparation, storage and serving solutions for the kitchen and home through the Tupperware brand and beauty and personal care products through the Avroy Shlain, BeautiControl, Fuller Cosmetics, NaturCare, Nutrimetics and Nuvo brands. (Website)

#### **About the Secretary’s Office of Global Women’s Issues**

Through the Secretary’s Office of Global Women’s Issues, the U.S. Department of State works to promote stability, peace, and development by empowering women politically, socially, and economically around the world. The Office is organized upon four pillars: 1) promoting the full engagement of women in the political and economic spheres; 2) mitigating the impact of violence against women and girls; 3) addressing underlying socio-economic problems, including women’s access to health and education, food security, and global problems such as climate change; and 4) ensuring that women are integrated as equal participants in reconciliation, post-conflict reconstruction and development in areas affected by conflict. For further information visit: [www.state.gov/s/gwi](http://www.state.gov/s/gwi)

#### **About Rollins College**

Founded in 1885, Rollins College is Florida’s oldest recognized college, and is consistently ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of “America’s best colleges.” The Rollins MBA at the Crummer Graduate School of Business is ranked a top MBA program by Bloomberg Businessweek, Forbes and U.S. News & World Report. It is among a select group of business schools in the nation that have been accredited at the graduate level and is distinguished by its faculty and the academic and business successes of its graduates. Rollins offers MBA degrees in three different formats for both working professionals and full-time students and is the first school in Florida to offer an accredited Executive Doctorate in Business Administration. The school also houses Centers of Excellence in Leadership, Advanced Entrepreneurship, Career Development, Management & Executive Education and Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership. For more information, visit [www.rollins.edu](http://www.rollins.edu). “Like” Rollins on Facebook and follow on Twitter @RollinsCollege.

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