

Fourth Group of Turkish Officials Completes Public Service and Leadership Development Program

In a ceremony held Aug. 18, 2009, 10 senior government inspectors from Turkey graduated from the Public Service and Leadership Development Program, offered by the Center for Public and Nonprofit Management at the University of Central Florida. They were the fourth group of Turkish officials to complete the program since it began two years ago with an inaugural group of six inspectors.

The yearlong PSLD program is part of a three-year program sponsored by the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Turkey that is designed to prepare the inspectors to become district governors. The UCF program included study of current public management topics in the Department of Public Administration and extensive English-language training in the Center for Multilingual and Multicultural Studies. The inspectors also completed a research project on a topic chosen by the Turkish Ministry and PSLD director.

“The PSLD program helped us understand the American public administration system as one of the most democratic and liberal examples in the world,” said graduate Ersin Boylu. “And [the] language courses at UCF will help us to communicate with people globally.”

“We gained significant knowledge and experience in topics like emergency management and performance measurement,” said another graduate.

The inspectors also visited state and local agencies, including small nonprofit organizations and the State of Florida governor's office. In addition, they met with Howard Tipton, chief administrative officer for the Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts in Orlando.

“It was a pleasure to meet the [inspectors],” Tipton said. “They were great to speak with and certainly seemed to be benefiting from their time with UCF.”

The hard work and achievements of the 10 inspectors were recognized at the graduation ceremony. Among the attendees were faculty members and administrators from the department, college and president's office, as well as community leaders.

During the ceremony, graduate Taner Bircan said, “We came here to learn language and be part of the PSLD program, but now we are leaving with a lot more than just these two things; we are leaving with knowledge and skills that are absolutely priceless.”



The guests were clearly pleased to meet the graduates and learn about their experiences in the program.

“I was delighted to listen to students and community partners discuss the merits of this wonderful experience and look forward to meeting and interacting with the incoming class,” said Ronnie Korosec, interim associate dean for the College of Health and Public Affairs.

At the graduation ceremony: (Back row, left to right) Abdulkadir Okay, Dr. Michael Abels, Omer Dagdeviren, Senol Turan, Ahmet Cigil, Duran Kalkan, Taner Bircan, Dr. Naim Kapucu, Ersin Boylu, Murat Ozturk, Onder Cosgun, Adnan Daldal, Dr. Ertugrul Gundogan, Igor Volkov, (front row, left to right) Maria Augustin, Howard Tipton, Dr. Mary Ann Feldheim, Fred Kittinger, Captain Rickey Dumas, Dr. Linda Colding, Davion Walker