The New York-based Russian American Foundation is pleased to announce that 15 American high school ballet dancers have been selected for the prestigious NSLI FOR YOUTH Program – funded by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs – to spend six weeks of the summer 2012 studying Russian language, culture and ballet at the renowned Bolshoi Ballet Academy in Moscow.

NSLI-Y seeks to increase Americans’ capacity to engage with native speakers of critical languages by providing language learning and by promoting mutual understanding through educational and cultural activities. For the third summer in a row NSLI-Y has earmarked scholarships for a dance-related program with the Russian American Foundation and Bolshoi Ballet Academy. The scholarship covers all program costs for participants including domestic and international travel; tuition, meals, accommodations and much more.

The announcement was made by Marina Kovalyov and Rina Kirshner, President and Vice-president, respectively, of Russian American Foundation. For more information visit: http://russianamericanfoundation.org/nsli-y.php

15 young dancers – from California, Washington, DC, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Massachusetts, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rode Island, South Carolina, Texas and Washington – will spend six weeks from July 14 to August 25 in Moscow, where they will be trained with the Bolshoi Ballet Academy and also study Russian language, history, arts and culture.

Prior to their departure for Moscow, the students will have three weeks of intensive ballet training in New York City with RAF’s Bolshoi Ballet Academy Summer Intensive, now in its fifth year in an exclusive U.S. summer residency, sponsored by the Russian American Foundation (RAF).

Please find the descriptions of the implementing organizations attached.
Russian American Foundation – founded in 1997 to encourage interest in and understanding of Russian heritage among all communities in the U.S., as well as to promote reciprocal interest in American heritage among global communities of the former Soviet Union – began its Bolshoi Ballet Academy summer training program in 2008. For more information visit: www.russianamericanfoundation.org

Bolshoi Ballet Academy Summer Intensive – which attracts talented young dancers from across the U.S. as well as foreign countries including Australia, Greece, Israel, Italy, China, Japan, Panama, Spain, Switzerland, Brazil, Kazakhstan, France and many others – takes place in venues in Manhattan and Connecticut, where students in age groups of 9–14 and 15 and older spend six weeks from late June to early August training in classical Russian ballet technique with instructors and dancers from the Bolshoi Ballet Academy.

With its 235-year history, the Bolshoi Ballet Academy is one of the oldest and most established schools for classical ballet training in the world, having produced numerous world-class dancers, teachers, and choreographers. The Bolshoi Ballet Academy is steeped in a rich cultural tradition with a strong curriculum and a pedagogy that focuses on strength, musicality, clarity, and personal expression. Some of the most accomplished dancers of the 20th century who trained at the Academy include Maya Plisetskaya, Vladimir Vasiliev, Ekaterina Maximova, while stars of the current generation who are Academy alums include Nina Ananiashvili, Vladimir Malakhov, Natalia Osipova, Alexei Ratmanski, Polina Semionova, and Nikolai Tsiskaridze. For additional information about the Bolshoi Ballet Academy visit www.BolshoiBalletAcademy.com.

NSLI-Y is administered by American Councils for International Education in cooperation with AFS-USA, American Cultural Exchange Service, Americans Promoting Study Abroad, AMIDEAST, iEARN-USA, Legacy International, Russian American Foundation and the University of Delaware. Applications for 2013-2014 NSLI-Y programs will be available at www.nsliforyouth.org in the early fall.