



## El Departamento de Estado de los Estados Unidos Enviará Dos Delegaciones al Nor-Oeste de Florida ~ *U.S. State Department to Send Two Delegations to Northwest Florida*

Feb 2009

*February 2009 is going to be a busy month, internationally speaking, for Northwest Florida. Arriving the same day as King Juan Carlos I & Queen Sofia of Spain (see page 1), two foreign delegations will arrive under the sponsorship of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Their upcoming visits to Pensacola & Milton are being arranged by the Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council, a non-partisan non-profit promoting NW Florida as a center of commerce, culture, and tourism by forging cultural, educational, and business relationships with the global community.*

*The first delegation is comprised of seven ministry of education officials, principals, and teachers from Barbados, Cameroon, Philippines, Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan, and Vietnam. The educators, all of whom speak English, will visit several schools in the area, including the Lacey A. Collier Sensory Complex at Escambia Westgate Center, a facility for special needs children. During their four days in town they will also attend informal dinners in the homes of the Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council members.*

*Just a few days later, a delegation of 10 Saudi Arabian IVLP participants will arrive to look at youth development programs. The ten are all leaders with the Boy Scouts of Saudi Arabia, and for most, it will be their first time to visit the United States. Planned Pensacola activities include visiting community centers, attending a Boy Scout Court of Honor, and participating in a Digital Media Education class. They will also join a Boy Scout troop at a bike & ropes course event in Milton. While in town, delegates will enjoy a membership dinner*

*arranged by the Council.*

*The emphasis of the IVLP is to increase mutual understanding through communication at the personal and professional levels. More than 290 current and former Heads of State, 2,000 cabinet-level ministers, and many other distinguished world leaders in the private sector have participated in the IVLP.*