In May 2011 Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton appointed Professor Ford – who is the director of the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois – to the **United States National Commission for UNESCO**. UNESCO – the United Nations Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization – was founded in 1945 to eradicate poverty, sustain development and promote an intercultural dialogue of peace.

"I am honored to serve my country in this capacity," said Ford. "UNESCO objectives include attaining quality education for all and lifelong learning; fostering cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace; and building inclusive knowledge societies through information and communication. Libraries can play very important roles in these issues and connect other individuals and organizations working in these areas and I am pleased to be able to assist with this on the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO."

The National Commission consists of 100 members who assist with global initiatives focused on communication, education, social science, natural science and culture. The Commission serves as a Federal advisory committee to the U.S. Government through the Department of the State.

Eric Woodard, Executive Director of the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO, said the following of our CHAMP colleague: "Professor Ford's appointment reflects recognition of her tremendous expertise, experience, and leadership. … Given her exemplary work in teaching, research and public service in the international arena, she will be a valuable addition to the Commission."