For Immediate Release:

On Friday, December 10, 2010, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center, The Graduate Center, The City University of New York (CUNY), 365 Fifth Avenue @ 34th Street, Room 9204, New York, New York 10016-4309, Suzanne Strickland a sociology professor at Queens College, will speak about how winning the high stakes challenge in Afghanistan demands that the U.S. abandon its current approach:

- **State building**—concentrating all power in the office of the presidency;

- **A development program** that spends money on programs without investing in building economic sectors;

- **A military approach** predicated on developing the Afghan Army and Police Force and staging a large contingent of U.S. and NATO troops.

Strickland will present new options for changing the outcome:

- Federalization of the current political structure and strategy for how to achieve this quickly;

- A development strategy, “invest not spend;”

- A military strategy to include re-engaging the Northern Alliance in the fight against the Taliban.

Suzanne Strickland teaches Sociology at Queens College. She has been involved in development projects in Afghanistan since 2004, from helping to organize social and private investment to jump-starting the gas, oil, bio fuel and housing sectors. She is currently an advisor to Platinum Energy, a consortium of investors and operating companies organized to produce gas and oil in Afghanistan.