



MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS

The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders is the flagship program of the U.S. Government's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). Established in 2014, the Mandela Washington Fellowship has engaged nearly 5,100 young leaders from every country in Sub-Saharan Africa through academic and leadership training. The Fellows, between the ages of 25 and 35, are accomplished innovators and leaders in their communities and countries.

Fellowship Components

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTES



All 700 Fellows participate in six-week Leadership Institutes at U.S. colleges and universities, studying Business, Civic Engagement, or Public Management. During their Institutes, Fellows connect with U.S. citizens and enrich local communities while sharing best practices.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCES (PDE)



Up to 100 competitively-selected Fellows work with private, public, and non-profit organizations for four to six weeks. Both Fellows and Hosts benefit from discussing shared issues and challenges in their sectors, broadening their perspectives, and positioning U.S. organizations for international engagement.

SUMMIT



After the Institutes, Fellows convene for a Summit, where they forge connections with one another and U.S. leaders from the private, public, and non-profit sectors, setting the stage for long-term engagement between the United States and Africa.

RECIPROCAL EXCHANGES



U.S. citizens can apply to travel to Africa to collaborate on projects with Fellowship Alumni, building upon connections initiated during the program. These partnerships and professional connections are intended to form lasting relationships, expand markets and networks, and increase mutual understanding.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI



Fellowship Alumni continue to build the skills and connections developed during the program through access to ongoing professional development, networking, and collaboration opportunities with support from the U.S. Department of State and affiliated partners.

FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI DEMOGRAPHICS



50-50

female and male gender balance



5% report having a disability



43% own a business



35% run a non-profit



Fellows come from **all 49 countries** in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Since 2014, Fellows have contributed **more than 57,500 hours of community service** to U.S. organizations and social services.

By meeting U.S. counterparts and Alumni through Fellowship activities, **over 95% of 2021 Fellows increased their connections** with people from other countries.

The Mandela Washington Fellowship is a program of the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and administered by IREX.

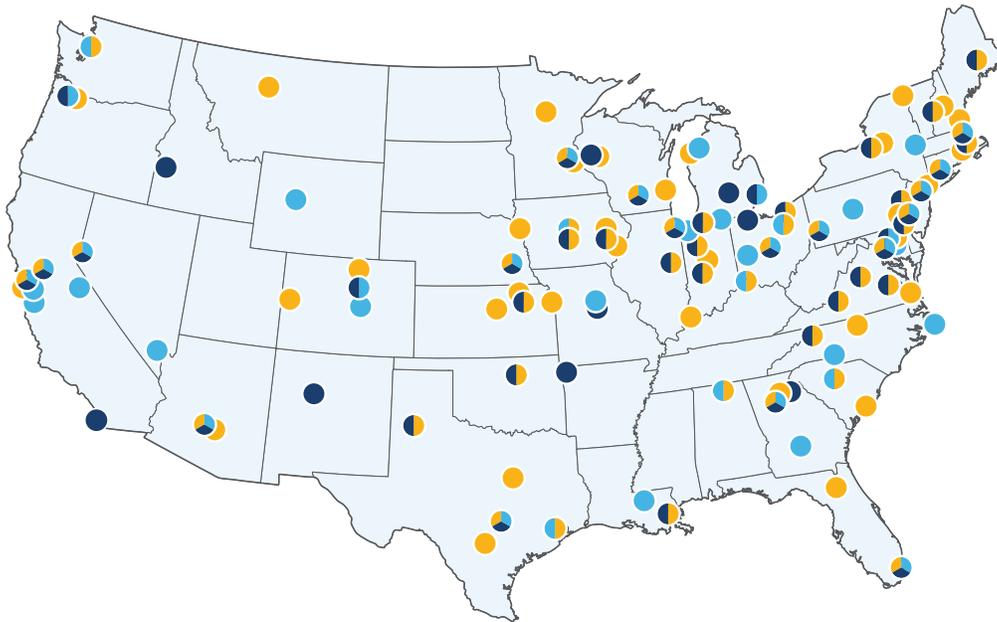




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Impact in the United States and Africa

Nearly 5,100 Fellows across Sub-Saharan Africa form an invaluable network of Fellowship Alumni who are spurring economic growth and prosperity, strengthening democratic governance, and enhancing peace and security across the continent.



Since 2014, 42 states and the District of Columbia have hosted Fellowship activities.

- **Institutes** – Educational institutions in 35 states and the District of Columbia have hosted Fellows since 2014.
- **Professional Development Experiences** – Fellows have completed more than **140,000 hours** of professional training at over **300 companies, organizations, and government agencies** in 31 states and the District of Columbia.
- **Reciprocal Exchanges** – Since 2015, U.S. citizens from 36 states and the District of Columbia have participated in a Reciprocal Exchange.

- Nearly all (96%) 2021 Institute Partners established new or built on existing relationships in their communities through their Fellowship participation.
- Since 2014, all Fellowship components have engaged corporate partners, including companies like Caterpillar, The Coca-Cola Company, Comcast, Dell, Deloitte, Lufthansa Group, Microsoft, Oracle, Starbucks, and UPS.

2021 Virtual Fellowship Empowers Fellows and Partners



The U.S. Department of State and IREX implemented a virtual Fellowship in 2021. Fellows participated remotely in leadership training, mentoring, and professional development through their Leadership Institutes; a Summit; and PDEs, strengthening their connections with each other and the United States.

Photo: 2021 Fellowship Alumna Josephine Kamara from Sierra Leone

Success Story



Since her 2016 Fellowship at Presidential Precinct in the Leadership in Civic Engagement track, Alumna Asmaa Angela James has become a powerful voice for peace, dialogue, and democracy in Sierra Leone as the manager of the station “Radio Democracy.” She is also an activist against gender-based violence. In 2017, she founded the Asmaa James Foundation to empower women and girls, and she continues to promote better policies around sexual and reproductive health.