



**MANDELA  
WASHINGTON  
FELLOWSHIP  
FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS**  
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

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 Fellowship is celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2024. 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### RECIPROCAL EXCHANGES



U.S. citizens and Fellowship Alumni collaborate on in-person and hybrid projects, 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.

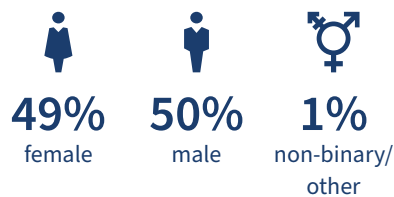
### OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALUMNI



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 Demographics

Since its inception, the Fellowship has engaged nearly 6,500 diverse young leaders.



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



**91% of Alumni** survey respondents reported that participating in the Mandela Washington Fellowship motivated them to take on a leadership role in their community.  
\*2023 Alumni Survey



### Learn More About the Fellowship

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.

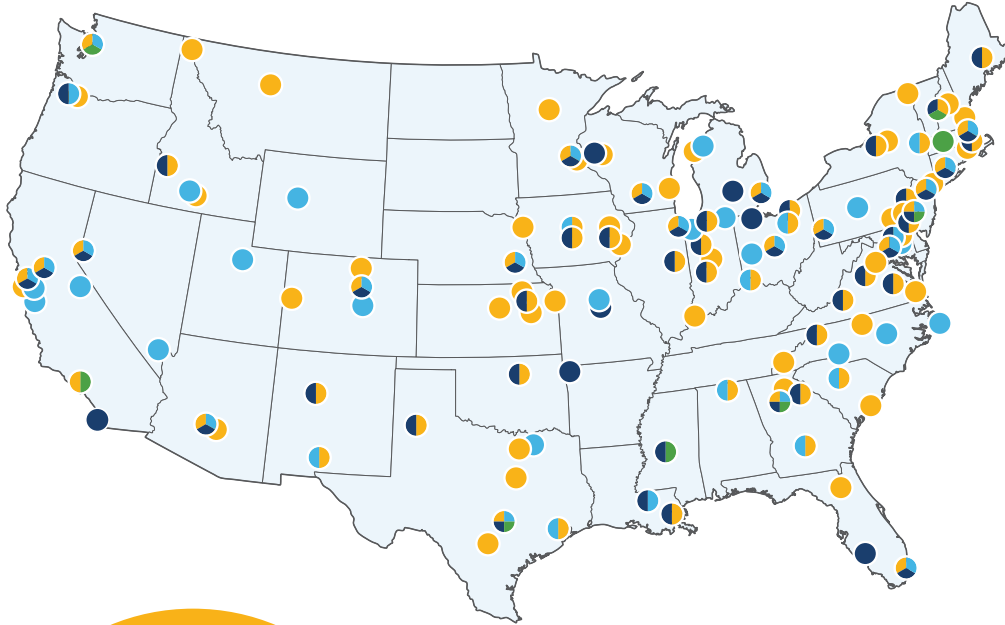




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## Impact in the United States and Africa

Since 2014, 44 states and the District of Columbia have hosted Fellowship activities.



- **Institutes** – More than 60 Educational institutions in 36 states and the District of Columbia have hosted Fellows since 2014.
- **Professional Development Experiences** – Fellows have completed more than **174,000 hours** of professional training at nearly **420 companies, organizations, and government agencies** in 36 states and the District of Columbia.
- **Reciprocal Exchanges** – Since 2015, 410 U.S. citizens from 39 states and the District of Columbia have participated in more than 350 Reciprocal Exchange projects.
- **Past Program Component:**  
*Alumni Enrichment Institutes*

All 2023 Institute Partners established new or strengthened existing relationships with their local 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.

Since 2014, Fellows have contributed more than **78,000 hours of community service** to U.S. organizations and social services.

**92% of Alumni** respondents reported **volunteering in their community** (at least once) within the last year.

\*2023 Alumni Survey

### Empowering Women & Girls in STEM

In 2012, 2015 Fellowship Alumna and 2019 Reciprocal Exchange Participant Jamila Mayanja founded Smart Girls Uganda, a nonprofit organization that empowers and mentors girls through STEM education, financial literacy, entrepreneurship training, and community development initiatives.

Each year, Smart Girls Uganda engages over 150 young women in economic programs and trains peer educators. In 2023, Jamila was named the winner of the Mandela Washington Fellowship Leadership Impact Award in recognition of her achievements.



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