

Focus Project Coaching Overview

Mandela Washington Fellows will participate in Leadership Institutes at 28 U.S. educational institutions across the country for six weeks from **mid-June to late July**. Throughout the program, Fellows will develop lasting connections with U.S. citizens and enrich local communities while enhancing their leadership skills through academic training, experiential learning, and networking. During this time, they will complete a **Focus Project** as a required component of their Fellowship experience.

What is the Focus Project?

The Focus Project is an **action-planning process** Fellows use to identify and address a need in their business, organization, or community. During their Institute, Fellows will build out the steps necessary to implement projects in their home countries using a **toolkit of targeted worksheets** designed for project planning. To support this process, Fellows will engage in **three hours of one-on-one coaching** with a designated Focus Project Coach during their Institute.

Who are Focus Project Coaches?

Focus Project Coaches come from **diverse professional backgrounds** but are all U.S. professionals with **experience in project planning** and an interest in engaging with accomplished young leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa. **Coaches are not expected to have the same professional backgrounds** as Fellows nor expertise in the sectors in which Fellows work.

Expectations of Focus Project Coaches

Coaching Objectives

- Ask targeted questions to help Fellows refine their ideas
- Guide Fellows to think through the feasibility of their project's scope and approach
- Expose Fellows to new professional experiences and examples that can inform their work
- Hold Fellows accountable for completing their action plan throughout the Institute

Coaching Requirements

Time Commitment	Coaches will commit to serving in this role throughout the Institute (June 19-July 27) and meeting individually with their Fellow(s), in-person or virtually, for a total of three required coaching hours per Fellow .
Scheduling	Coaches will work with their Fellow(s) to schedule the coaching sessions based on both of their availabilities . Institute staff may support the scheduling process, and Coaches should direct any questions about scheduling to their point of contact at the Institute.
Coaching	Coaches will provide professional guidance on action planning to support their Fellow(s) as they independently complete their Focus Project work. Coaching sessions may be held in person or virtually .

