



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. Since 2014, 3,000 young leaders from every country in Sub-Saharan Africa have participated in the Fellowship. The Fellows, between the ages of 25 and 35, are accomplished innovators and leaders in their communities and countries.

Fellowship Components

ACADEMIC AND LEADERSHIP INSTITUTES



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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCES



Up to 100 competitively-selected Fellows remain in the United States for six weeks to work with private, public, and non-profit organizations. Fellows and hosts benefit from mutual learning on common issues and challenges in their sectors, broadening perspectives and positioning U.S. organizations for international engagement.

ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA



Upon returning home, Fellows continue to build the skills and connections developed during their time in the United States through mentorship, practicums, conferences, and other activities with support from U.S. embassies, USAID, and affiliated partners.

SUMMIT



After the Institutes, Fellows convene for a multi-day Summit in Washington, D.C., 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



Americans travel to Africa to collaborate on projects with Fellows, building upon connections initiated while Fellows were in the United States. These partnerships and professional connections expand markets and networks, form lasting relationships, and increase mutual understanding.

FELLOW DEMOGRAPHICS



50-50
female and male
gender balance



5% report
having a disability



43% own
a business



37% run
a non-profit



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

In 2016 and 2017, Fellows contributed more than **25,000 hours of community service** to American organizations and social services.

Fewer than **25% of Fellows had professional contacts** in the United States prior to the Fellowship. After the program, **more than 95% of Fellows have plans to further engage** with U.S. professionals after they return home.

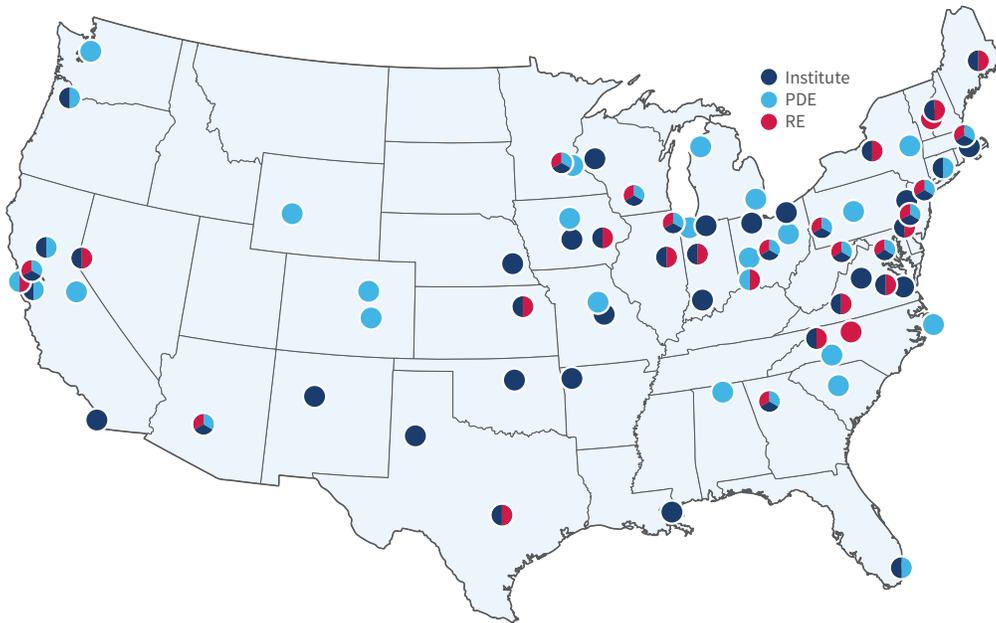




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Fellowship Impact in the U.S. and Africa

By summer 2018, 3,700 Fellows across Sub-Saharan Africa will form an invaluable network of alumni who are spurring growth and prosperity, strengthening democratic governance, and enhancing peace and security across the continent.



Since 2014, 38 states and the District of Columbia have hosted Fellowship activities.

Institutes – 50 universities in 30 states and the District of Columbia have hosted Fellows since 2014.

Professional Development Experiences (PDE) – Fellows have completed **100,000 hours** of professional training at more than **200 companies, organizations, and government agencies** in 26 states and the District of Columbia.

Reciprocal Exchanges (RE) – As of January 2018, **55 Americans** from 26 states and the District of Columbia have traveled to 24 countries in Africa for a Reciprocal Exchange since 2015.

- The Fellowship leverages private funding each year, with university partners providing **more than \$12 million in direct support** of the program since 2014.
- Nearly **90% of university partners** in 2017 report that the Fellowship helped create or strengthen corporate partnerships.



Fellowship connections create new partnerships for U.S. companies:

After meeting 2016 Fellow Nicholine Tifuh Azirh of Ghana at Florida International University's Institute, President and CEO of Celebrity Cruises Lisa Lutloff-Perlo was inspired by hearing how Nicholine overcame the challenges she faced as a woman in the male-dominated maritime industry. Since then, Celebrity Cruises and the Regional Maritime University in Ghana have launched a partnership recruiting female officers for the Celebrity Cadet Program from African countries.

“Nicholine's success is our entire world's success. Her story shows the power of win-win partnerships and the positive impact they have on our communities—and beyond.”

– Mark B. Rosenburg,
FIU President