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60
YEARS | Because of my
**EISENHOWER
FELLOWSHIP...**



DIANE MELLEY, 2001 USA

Vice President, Corporate Citizenship & Corporate Affairs, IBM

Diane Melley was a project executive in IBM's Corporate Citizenship department when she was named an Eisenhower Fellow in 2001. At the time, she led one global initiative - Reinventing Education - in 23 locations in the U.S. and abroad. Now, she is a vice president, overseeing scores of initiatives at a worldwide level. According to Melley, the insight she gained during her Eisenhower Fellowship has been invaluable not only in providing her with a perspective on the complexities and nuances of working internationally, but also in preparing her for the vast global responsibilities she has today.

Melley credits her time as an Eisenhower Fellow in preparing her to take on this level of broad international responsibility. "My fellowship gave me global exposure and a new lens with which to examine and understand the world. Thanks to my fellowship, I am able to grasp societal issues and the complexity of working across various cultures in a way that would have been impossible without my time abroad as a Fellow. Certainly, as IBM core business strategies focus on a Smarter Planet and Smarter Cities, my fellowship was critical in developing my understanding of complex global issues and enabled me to be innovative in developing solutions to align with the business initiatives. Ours in not only a Smarter Planet, it's a smaller planet and the fellowship contributed to my understanding and appreciation of that."

Melley's fellowship goal was to study the integration of technology into education systems. She spent her initial three weeks in Brussels, Belgium, examining the policies of the European Union, and then the subsequent three weeks speaking with government officials, academics, policy makers, and education experts in Ireland, a country which was attracting significant technology investment at the time.

"I met incredible individuals during my fellowship, whom I will remember for a lifetime. Sir Thomas Frawley, knighted by the Queen for his role in the Irish peace process, was my in-country sponsor. Lord Brian Kerr, a Supreme Court Judge in Northern Ireland, was gracious enough to have me over for a home-cooked dinner. Joyce O'Connor, my host in the south of Ireland, ran the National College of Ireland, and her careers and education model helped inform my thinking in many of the partnerships I have formed since then. And certainly my program officer Diane Shoemaker is an unsung hero – she played a critical role in helping direct my fellowship experience and connecting me with others."

After her fellowship concluded, Melley was inspired to give back to Eisenhower Fellowships. She acted as the first chair of the Philadelphia regional alumni, and served for eight years. Over the past decade, she has enjoyed reconnecting with alumni and connecting with new Eisenhower Fellows, and has been involved in numerous joint efforts including working with 2002 USA Fellow Della Clark and the Enterprise Center in Philadelphia, empowering small businesses with use of the IBM Small Business toolkit; partnering with 2003 USA Fellow Jane Golden of the Mural Arts Program on several initiatives, including the most recent Restorative Justice project; collaborating with 2000 USA Fellow Pedro Ramos of the Philadelphia School District, on a number of projects to improve teacher quality and student achievement, and working with 2002 USA Fellow Sister Mary Scullion of Project H.O.M.E. on a Reading Companion project to promote literacy and work force development. Melley continues to connect with Eisenhower Fellows from around the world, providing them access to her vast network and resources in a variety of industries and technologies.



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