



**EISENHOWER
FELLOWSHIPS**

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear friends,

Someday we will look back at 2025 as an inflection point, a year that saw a world on the march to major armed conflict and humanity's rapidly approaching reckoning with artificial intelligence.

At a time of heightened tensions abroad and growing divisions at home, Eisenhower Fellowships remained true to its core beliefs and mission, connecting dynamic leaders from all fields in direct dialogue to build bridges of trust and help ignorance give way to understanding.

Some 73 years after our founding, we remain laser-focused on that mission, nourishing the people-to-people exchanges that drive our unique brand of citizen diplomacy to help convert confrontation to collaboration and better our world.

Last year Eisenhower Fellowships brought to the United States 37 impressive international leaders and sent 22 ascendant American leaders overseas to ignite their imaginations, sharpen their skills and broaden their networks so they could apply what they learned when they returned home to make a positive impact in their societies.

As we enter an even more ominous period, marked by widening war, economic disruption and social division, Eisenhower Fellowships celebrates its proud accomplishments in 2025 that saw our Fellows come together to inspire hope at a time of anxiety and fear.

We stand poised today to redouble our efforts to advance President Dwight D. Eisenhower's vision and help make this troubled world more peaceful, prosperous and just. An eternally elusive objective, but one that Eisenhower Fellows doggedly pursue with passion and purpose.

In this, we thank all our friends whose generous support makes this work possible, as we celebrate the exceptional leaders who inspire us to do more.

Yours,



George de Lama
President



2025 GLOBAL PROGRAM

**Sofia Geyer | ARGENTINA****Founder and Chief Executive Officer • The Human Lab**

Sofia Geyer is the founder and chief executive officer of The Human Lab, an innovation consultancy that combines neuroscience, behavioral sciences and organizational transformation. She has worked with diverse organizations, including multinationals and public institutions, to drive innovation and resilience. As a result of her fellowship, Geyer aims to create a training program that integrates ethics and critical thinking into innovation processes, helping organizations assess their broader human impact. She plans to scale these methods across Latin America to promote sustainable innovation.

**Elise Caluwaerts | BELGIUM****Managing Director • DeMaestros**

Elise Caluwaerts is the managing director of DeMaestros, a nonprofit that provides music education and talent development for underprivileged children. An internationally recognized opera singer, Caluwaerts founded the organization to use music to foster self-worth, social cohesion and academic success. Under her leadership, DeMaestros has reached 900 children in Belgium and plans to expand internationally. During her fellowship, Caluwaerts explored strategies for fostering global partnerships to bring music education to underserved communities worldwide.

**Thais Lazzeri | BRAZIL****Founder and Director • FALA - Impact Studio**

Thais Lazzeri is the founder and director of FALA, a Brazilian impact studio focused on social change through storytelling and strategic communication. An award-winning journalist and filmmaker, Lazzeri has received Thomson Reuters Foundation's Stop Slavery Award for her work on human trafficking, among other international honors. At FALA, she leads projects focused on creating solutions aimed at driving real change in human rights, environmental advocacy, democracy and information integrity on climate. During her fellowship, Lazzeri laid the groundwork to launch a Climate Information Integrity Hub at the COP30 climate change conference in Brazil in 2025 to amplify accurate climate narratives and influence global policy.

**Lan Tao | CHINA****Founder and Chief Executive Officer • Green Inclusive Science and Technology Co., Ltd**

Lan Tao is the founder and chief executive officer of Green Inclusive Science and Technology, a company using digital technology to drive carbon reduction and promote inclusive decarbonization. Her company's innovative digital platform, which tracks and rewards carbon reduction efforts, has inspired more than 70 million users to reduce more than 1 million tons of CO2 emissions. She plans to use her fellowship learnings to establish a global network to incentivize individuals to reduce their carbon emissions.

**Jingde Lin | CHINESE TAIPEI****Founder and Chief Executive Officer • RYBIT (MOOVO)**

Jingde Lin is the founder and chief executive officer of RYBIT (MOOVO), a platform providing sustainable Light Electric Vehicle subscription services to city governments and private corporations. RYBIT operates with more than 50,000 vehicles, facilitating a half-million emission-free miles daily. Lin plans to use the lessons from his fellowship to create an urban innovation accelerator and social venture fund in Taiwan to help young entrepreneurs develop sustainable solutions for future cities.

**José Flórez | COLOMBIA****Director of the PhD in Political Studies • Externado University of Colombia**

José Flórez is the director of the PhD in Political Studies program at the Externado University of Colombia. Flórez previously served as director of policy and strategy at the Office of the Attorney General of Colombia, and as planning director of Colombia's National Civil Registry, leading technological modernization and reform of the country's electoral and civil identification systems. Under his leadership, the Registry created a Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence Group to enhance electoral transparency. As a result of his fellowship, he aims to draft Colombia's first comprehensive AI regulation law to ensure ethical development and deployment of this powerful, rapidly emerging technology.

**Emil Rodríguez Garabot | DOMINICAN REPUBLIC****Director of Habitat and Sustainable Mobility • CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean**

Emil Rodríguez Garabot is the director of habitat and sustainable mobility at CAF -Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, leading urban development initiatives in countries across the region. With two decades of experience, he advanced the lending institution's BiodiverCities Network, uniting more than 200 cities to integrate biodiversity into their urban planning. Following his fellowship, Rodríguez Garabot wants to create a green project incubator to help Latin American cities access sustainable financing and accelerate climate action.

**Maximilien Van Aertryck | FRANCE****Producer and Director • Plattform Produktion**

Maximilien Van Aertryck is a producer, director and co-owner of Plattform Produktion, a Scandinavian film company. Based in Paris, Van Aertryck uses documentary filmmaking to challenge social norms and explore human behavior. His film "Fantastic Machine," co-directed with Axel Danielson, won multiple international awards and inspired a media literacy campaign that reached more than 11,000 students in Sweden. On fellowship, Van Aertryck explored the psychological, historical, media-related and material factors that drive conflict and peace. He plans to showcase his findings in a documentary, Being Human, scheduled for release in 2026.


Eva Bordos | HUNGARY
Executive Director · DemNet Hungary

Eva Bordos is executive director of DemNet Hungary, a non-governmental organization focused on democracy, civic engagement and participatory governance in Central and Eastern Europe. Since 2016, Bordos has revitalized DemNet, leading Hungary's first citizens' assemblies in Budapest and other major municipalities. Under her leadership, DemNet has become a regional leader in deliberative democracy. On fellowship Bordos deepened her expertise in U.S.-based models of deliberative democracy to enhance Hungary's democratic resilience and bridge societal divides in her region.


Shahid Iqbal Choudhary | INDIA
Commissioner Secretary · Jammu and Kashmir Government

Shahid Iqbal Choudhary is the commissioner secretary of Jammu and Kashmir's science and technology department, where he leads the region's strategic transition toward clean energy, climate resilience and technology-driven governance. He has the additional charge of overseeing civil aviation, where his focus is on expanding regional air connectivity, while promoting green aviation and drone technologies for public service delivery. These two roles are a blend of science, sustainability and innovation to solve real problems and create resilient futures. A distinguished member of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Choudhary has received multiple Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration. He introduced initiatives such as Project Rahat, building 170 mountain bridges to improve access in remote areas. As a result of his fellowship, Choudhary aims to launch what he calls the Climate-Resilient Rural Livelihoods Initiative to empower Himalayan communities through sustainable agriculture, water management and climate adaptation.


Ghuzayyah Hijazi | JORDAN
Co-Founder and General Manager · Analyzeize Research

Ghuzayyah Hijazi is the co-founder and general manager of Analyzeize Research, a consultancy based in Jordan. Having led research projects in the MENA region for prominent organizations that include UNICEF and USAID, her expertise is in political reform, violent extremism, youth civic engagement and child protection. She used her fellowship to prepare for the launch of "Project Synesis," a women-led think tank bridging on-the-ground realities and policymaking in Jordan and the broader Middle East and North Africa region.


Maryanne Gichanga | KENYA
Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder · AgriTech Analytics

Maryanne Gichanga is the chief executive officer and co-founder of AgriTech Analytics, a Kenyan agri-tech company transforming smallholder farming with artificial intelligence. Under her leadership, AgriTech Analytics developed an award-winning solar-powered device for soil diagnostics and pest and disease detection, providing farmers with 98% accurate, real-time insights. These innovations have helped nearly 8,000 farmers in Kenya boost crop yields and reduce costs. Gichanga's fellowship focused on exploring strategies to scale these solutions to reach 20,000 farmers across 20 counties and restore one million hectares of degraded land.


Deddeh Supuwood | LIBERIA
Acting Head of Oncology Unit · John F. Kennedy Medical Center

Deddeh Supuwood is the acting head of the Oncology Unit at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center, Liberia's national medical hospital. As Liberia's first medical oncologist since two civil wars devastated the country from 1989 to 2003, she established the nation's first oncology unit, improving cancer care and survival rates. Her fellowship project, "Mammogram on the Go," aims to create a mobile mammography unit to provide early detection services in rural and underserved communities, reducing cancer mortality and expanding access to care nationwide.


Haroon Sheikh | NETHERLANDS
Senior Scientist · Dutch Scientific Council for Government Policy

Haroon Sheikh is a senior scientist at the Dutch Scientific Council for Government Policy, advising the Dutch government on geopolitics, artificial intelligence and global power dynamics. With experience in finance, academia and public policy, he has authored five books and reports, including "Mission AI," which shaped the Dutch government's artificial intelligence strategy. During his fellowship, he explored strategies to strengthen democracies and counter emerging geopolitical threats.


Orondaam Otto | NIGERIA
Founder and Executive Director · Slum2School Africa

Orondaam Otto is the founder and executive director of Slum2School Africa, a leading nonprofit bridging the education gap for underserved children. Since 2012, Otto has grown the organization to mobilize more than 45,000 volunteers globally, establishing communities of impact across 15 African countries and reaching 685,450 children in Nigeria. The organization has launched innovative projects that include Africa's first virtual learning classroom, STEM learning hubs and the Slum2School Academy for early childhood education. On fellowship, Otto engaged with scalable models for education reform, aiming to establish 1,000 Early Childhood Development Centers in underserved communities across Africa.


Hamza Saeed | PAKISTAN
Chief Market Development Officer · Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA)

Hamza Saeed is the chief market development officer at the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA), a federal agency driving Pakistan's transformation into a global tech hub. As a founding member, Saeed helped shape STZA's legislative framework and supported the creation of 20 Special Technology Zones, home to more than 200 tech companies and 25,000 professionals. With more than a decade of experience in public policy, technology governance and trade, Saeed has mobilized \$400 million in investments and built a \$4.5 billion project pipeline. He aims to launch the TechSkills Financing Program (TFP), a public-private partnership for youth tech education in Pakistan.


Graciela Riera | PARAGUAY
Head of Genomics Department • Meyer Lab

Graciela Riera is the head of the Genomics Department at Meyer Lab, Paraguay's leading clinical diagnostics and genetics laboratory. With more than a decade of experience in molecular biology and genetics, she has played a key role in establishing Paraguay's first genetics and genomic services center in partnership with Héritas, a clinical arm of Meyer Lab, and in implementing specialized and complex tests with Mayo Clinic Labs. On fellowship, Riera developed plans to establish Paraguay's first national genetic biobank to strengthen the country's healthcare system, foster innovation and empower local researchers.


Elizabeth Añaños | PERU
Vice President of the Advisory Commission for National Infrastructure Development • Ministry of Economy and Finance of Peru

Elizabeth Añaños is an architect, policymaker and urban development leader focused on bridging social inequalities through public sector innovation. Formerly the vice minister of housing and urban development in Peru, Añaños accelerated the delivery of housing subsidies, benefiting more than 50,000 urban families and building more than 12,000 rural homes. On fellowship, she investigated how to create a venture that will support communities in implementing sustainable, climate-resilient housing models.


Ionuț Stanimir | ROMANIA
Director of Marketing and Communication • Banca Comercială Română

Ionuț Stanimir is the director of marketing and communication at Banca Comercială Română (BCR), Romania's second-largest bank. With more than 20 years of experience, Stanimir has led initiatives in financial education, entrepreneurship and innovation. As co-founder of InnovX-BCR, Romania's top startup accelerator, he has supported more than 200 enterprises and positioned Romania as a startup leader in the region. As a result of his fellowship, Stanimir hopes to develop a national network of youth innovation hubs to promote entrepreneurship, financial literacy and digital skills.


Basmah Aljedia | SAUDI ARABIA
General Manager, Cybersecurity Industry Development • National Cybersecurity Authority

Basmah Aljedia is a general manager at Saudi Arabia's National Cybersecurity Authority, driving innovation and investment in the Kingdom's cybersecurity sector. A founding member of the Saudi Leadership Society and a participant in the Misk 2030 Leaders Program, Aljedia promotes leadership and fosters investment growth in technology fields. Following her fellowship, she aims to establish a global cybersecurity entrepreneurship program to support cybersecurity startups.


Nevindaree Premarathne | SRI LANKA
Founder and Chief Executive Officer • The Makers Global

Nevindaree Premarathne is the founder and chief executive officer of The Makers Global, an ed-tech company transforming STEM education through hands-on learning for children ages four to 16. Since 2022, The Makers has reached more than 5,000 students in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Australia and Norway with STEM kits, online learning platforms and personalized coaching. Premarathne's work has earned global awards and recognition. Following fellowship, she wants to expand The Makers' STEM approach into school curriculums through fun, educational experiments.


Evelina Vågesjö | SWEDEN
Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder • Ilya Pharma

Evelina Vågesjö is chief executive officer and co-founder of Ilya Pharma, a Swedish biotech company that develops immunotherapies to treat a wide range of diseases. Under her leadership, Ilya Pharma has raised more than \$36 million in grants and private equity investments and developed clinical programs targeting conditions such as wound healing, gastrointestinal diseases and lung fibrosis. Vågesjö's work has led to more than 25 patents and personal recognition as an MIT Innovator Under 35 and one of Sweden's top 20 entrepreneurs. She used her fellowship to explore collaborative stakeholder strategies for MDR (Multi-Drug Resistant) pathogen testing, treatment and policy reform.


Yasemin Sıralı | TÜRKİYE
Sustainability (ESG) Director • FIBA Group

Yasemin Sıralı is the sustainability director at FIBA Group, a multinational conglomerate with more than \$15 billion in assets and operations in 11 countries. As chief sustainability officer, she developed FIBA's Environmental, Social and Governance framework, established a Sustainability Committee and mobilized more than 170 ESG champions across 72 subsidiaries. As a result of her fellowship, Sıralı plans to create a \$10 million climate adaptation fund at FIBA to support local enterprises in building climate resilience.


Faith Dube | ZIMBABWE
General Manager • Vaya Digital Farmer (Eccash Holdings Pvt Ltd)

Faith Dube is the General Manager of Vaya Digital Farmer where she leads initiatives to empower small and medium-scale farmers through digital financial services, agricultural training and climate-smart farming solutions. To date Vaya Digital Farmer has supported over 1.6 million farmers across Zimbabwe and distributed \$1 million in agricultural financing. A passionate advocate for women in agriculture, Dube used her fellowship to explore strategies for empowering women farmers in Africa through sustainable, climate-smart projects.

2025 SOUTHEAST ASIA PROGRAM

**Yoga Adiwinto | INDONESIA****Director of Business Development • KALISTA**

Yoga Adiwinto is the director of business development at KALISTA, a transportation and supply chain company driving sustainable growth and progress towards Indonesia's net-zero emission goals. He was formerly chief executive officer of Desmobi, a company dedicated to accelerating the adoption of electric mobility across cities in Indonesia. With more than 15 years of experience in sustainable transportation, he has led groundbreaking initiatives, including the development of the first Bus Rapid Transit systems in Peshawar and Karachi, Pakistan, as well as Jakarta's first electric vehicle (EV) project. During his fellowship, Adiwinto drew insights from the U.S. transition to electric vehicles to advance the EV ecosystem in Indonesia.

**Steven Wongsoredjo | INDONESIA****Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer • SuperApp**

Steven Wongsoredjo is the co-founder and chief executive officer of SuperApp, a social commerce platform working to improve access to affordable products in rural Indonesian communities. SuperApp partners with community leader buyers, supply chain vendors and sellers to reduce retail prices and increase household savings. Under his leadership, the app services 40 cities. On fellowship, Wongsoredjo studied best practices to promote financial literacy and scalability for SuperApp's stakeholders.

**Matthew Durai | MALAYSIA****Founder and Executive Producer • ZAG Studios**

Matthew Durai is the founder of ZAG Studios, an award-winning media company dedicated to amplifying underrepresented voices through powerful audio storytelling. Matthew leads the Dementia Research Project in collaboration with the Alzheimer's Disease Foundation Malaysia. The Project, which began as a three-part podcast series that explored the early, mid and late stages of the disease with depth and empathy, has expanded to include media campaigns and community-based projects. As a result of his fellowship, Durai aims to develop a nationwide multimedia campaign that blends narrative storytelling with event-focused news coverage to promote early detection and raise awareness of dementia. He also plans to integrate artificial intelligence and a digital health platform to create a comprehensive, accessible resource hub for patients, caregivers and healthcare providers.

**Venus Oliva Cloma-Rosales | PHILIPPINES****Founder and Managing Director • 101 Health Research**

Dr. Venus Oliva Cloma-Rosales is the founder and managing director of 101 Health Research, a pioneering Filipino firm specializing in health data science, biostatistics and research consulting. With more than a decade of experience and a portfolio that includes work on 77 million patient claims and leading national policy evaluations, she is recognized as a leading voice in evidence-based healthcare innovation. Under Dr. Cloma-Rosales' leadership, her organization launched the Philippines' first AI-driven health research library portal. She used her time on fellowship to scale the reach and impact of the platform, focusing on democratized access to research data and improved patient outcomes nationwide.

**Erika Fille Legara | PHILIPPINES****Managing Director and Chief AI & Data Officer • Center for AI Research**

Erika Fille Legara leads the Philippines' Center for AI Research, where her position at the intersection of policy, innovation and implementation influences the trajectory of AI development and deployment in the country. She designed and implemented the nation's first data science graduate program at the Asian Institute of Management, recognized among the best in Far East Asia. Following her fellowship, she will establish an adaptable AI algorithmic auditing framework that can evolve with the rapidly changing landscape and incorporate global best practices. She also explored the application of AI in analyzing complex climate data to inform policy decisions.

**Rena Dharmawan | SINGAPORE****Consultant Surgeon • National Cancer Centre Singapore**

Rena Dharmawan is a surgeon, educator and entrepreneur passionate about advancing MedTech innovation. She co-founded three healthcare start-ups and developed Singapore's first multidisciplinary Duke-NUS Health Innovator Program (D-HIP) to train the next generation of healthcare innovators and encourage them to prototype technology solutions. On fellowship, she explored strengthening collaborations between innovators and industry. She plans to extend the D-HIP curriculum and training beyond Singapore into the Southeast Asia region with satellite programs.

**Jane Lim | SINGAPORE****Deputy Secretary, Trade and International Economic Relations • Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore**

Jane Lim leads Singapore's global trade strategy as the deputy secretary in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, overseeing the nation's bilateral economic relations and negotiations. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she spearheaded cross-border recovery initiatives, helping to strengthen regional cooperation and partnerships. Through her fellowship, Lim explored U.S. approaches to state-level economic development and trade promotion. She gathered insights that can inform Singapore's efforts to enhance supply chain connectivity and foster international investment collaboration.

**Pak Shun Ng | SINGAPORE****Group Chief, Policy and Strategy; Group Chief, Plans and Transformation • Ministry of Defense, Singapore**

Pak Shun Ng leads Singapore's long-term defense strategy and transformation efforts within the country's Ministry of Defense. A former commander in the Air Defense and Operations Command, he has played a key role in advancing defense diplomacy, fostering regional cooperation, and shaping multilateral policies on the responsible use of artificial intelligence in military contexts. After his fellowship, Ng plans to develop a three-day executive education course on ethical decision-making for Singapore's public servants, in collaboration with the Civil Service College. The course will equip leaders with practical frameworks to navigate complex moral dilemmas in policy and governance.



Supachai Parchariyanon | THAILAND
Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder • RISE

Supachai Parchariyanon spearheads RISE, one of Southeast Asia's largest open innovation platforms that partners with corporations and governments to drive 1% of GDP growth while reducing global carbon emissions by 1%. Parchariyanon is also the managing partner of SeaX Ventures, a venture capital fund investing globally in early-stage companies with groundbreaking "exponential" technologies. A former physician turned entrepreneur, he has supported the launch of more than 2,000 startups, including two unicorns. On fellowship, he laid the foundation for the Southeast Asia Health Innovation Hub, bringing together key stakeholders to position Thailand as a regional leader in forward-thinking healthcare policy and technology. The Hub's initial launch will include a pilot initiative focused on updating national health frameworks and a global accelerator program.



Saiyai Sakawee | THAILAND
Head of Consumer Communications, SEA and South Asia Frontier Markets • Google

Saiyai Sakawee is the head of communications for Southeast Asia and South Asia Frontier Markets at Google, where she improves lives through locally tailored programs focused on digital skilling, online safety and creating economic opportunities. She works to bridge the digital divide as a passionate advocate for underrepresented groups and responsible AI development. Using the lessons from her fellowship, she will launch several initiatives to reduce widening socio-economic gaps through AI education and skills development for marginalized groups in Thailand. Sakawee envisions utilizing community-driven communication channels and narratives to increase awareness of the benefits of AI.



Santitarn Sathirathai | THAILAND
Member, Monetary Policy Committee • Bank of Thailand

Santitarn Sathirathai is a strategist, best-selling author and investor focused on the intersection of the digital economy, macroeconomics and public policy. He is currently a member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of Thailand and serves as Future Economy Advisor to the Thailand Development Research Institute. A former public advisor, he was invited by the government of Thailand to serve on the committee responsible for drafting the country's 5-year Small and Medium Enterprise Development Plan, e-commerce legislation and post-COVID economic reopening strategies. On fellowship, he explored models for establishing a Strategic Future Council in Thailand to strengthen long-term, multisectoral policy planning and foster resilience in an increasingly uncertain world.



Tien Nguyen | VIETNAM
Founding Partner • Earth Venture Capital

Tien Nguyen is the founder of Earth Venture Capital, a firm dedicated to accelerating the global transition to net zero carbon emission by investing in early-stage climate tech startups. A former translator, martial arts instructor and a community activist, he launched the Vietnam Venture Capital Community (VVCC) platform to accelerate knowledge and foster networking within the venture capital ecosystem. With 5,600 active members, VVCC elevated venture capital to mainstream recognition across Vietnam. Following his fellowship, he plans to launch the Deep-Tech for Environmental & Entrepreneurial Pioneers (DEEP) venture studio to support young founders in addressing Southeast Asia's most pressing risks.



Trang Trinh | VIETNAM
Concert Pianist and Arts Leader • All Bodies Dance

Trang Trinh is a concert pianist, artist and educator whose work bridges classical music with the community and education. In Vietnam, she was the co-founder and artistic director of the Miracle Choir Orchestra (MCO), a not-for-profit, free music education program for more than 200 orphans in Hanoi, founded the accessible classical concert series WonderArts & Education and was the founding chief executive officer of the Vietnam Youth Orchestra. Now based in Canada, she joined the country's only fully inclusive dance company, All Bodies Dance, as its General Manager to learn more about innovative arts practices. Trinh used her fellowship to prepare for the launch a major international, widely accessible arts festival in Vietnam's capital.



2025 USA PROGRAM

**Kam Buckner | CHICAGO, IL****State Representative • Illinois General Assembly**

Illinois State Representative Kam Buckner is Speaker Pro Tempore of the Illinois House, where he has advanced landmark legislation, including the abolition of cash bail and the Midwest's first ghost gun bill, which helped shape national policy. A former nonprofit executive, he has advised U.S. senators, developed engagement strategies for the Chicago Cubs and advised the city of New Orleans. During his fellowship in Brazil, Ireland and Northern Ireland, Buckner developed the Community Safety and Accountability Hub—a resident-informed model for reducing violence and rebuilding trust through global best practices and transparent public safety strategies.

**Sirisha Kuchimanchi | DALLAS, TX****Founder and Chief Executive Officer • Sahita Technologies**

Sirisha Kuchimanchi leads Sahita Technologies, where she drives workforce development in semiconductors and advanced manufacturing to strengthen supply chains and expand access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics. A former Texas Instruments executive, she champions digital engagement and experiential learning to reach underrepresented communities. On fellowship in Japan and Indonesia, she explored global models for hands-on STEM training and workforce programs. She is partnering with museums, schools and nonprofits to inspire more than 100,000 students annually through storytelling and interactive outreach.

**Ryan McClure | ST. LOUIS, MO****Executive Director • Gateway Arch Park Foundation**

Ryan McClure leads the nonprofit conservancy and official philanthropic partner of Gateway Arch National Park. Under his leadership, the organization managed a capital campaign to steward one of the country's most iconic public spaces, raising more than \$300 million to date. He also chairs the National Park Friends Alliance, representing conservancies across the United States. On fellowship in France and Germany, Ryan explored how parks and museums use public-private partnerships, technology and storytelling to communicate complex histories and build civic identity.

**Gabriel McCormick | BOSTON, MA****EdEthics Director of Partnerships & Outreach • Stanford University, Graduate School of Education**

Gabriel McCormick is the EdEthics director of partnerships and outreach at Stanford University Graduate School of Education. Previously he served as senior director of teaching and learning for the Public Schools of Brookline, where he oversaw educator development, federal grants and a mentorship program supporting more than 100 early career teachers. A former social studies teacher, he has shaped district policy and secured \$3.5 million in grants annually to expand access to high-quality instruction. His ethics-based mentorship model has helped new teachers and mentor teachers build confidence, clarify values and navigate complex classroom decisions. On fellowship in Spain and Finland, he explored teacher preparation programs that integrate ethical development to strengthen early career support and values-driven teaching in U.S. schools.

**Kendra McDow | PHILADELPHIA, PA****Medical Officer • School District of Philadelphia**

Kendra B. McDow is a pediatrician and public health leader who oversees health services for nearly 120,000 students in the School District of Philadelphia. She has expanded school-based clinics, improved access to life-saving medications, increased vaccination rates and helped students and families navigate health insurance and public benefits. A former chief medical officer for the Baltimore City Health Department during COVID-19, she has also served as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. On fellowship in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Ghana, she studied school-based health systems and community care models to improve health care access and outcomes for children and families.

**Elizabeth Pishny | WASHINGTON, D.C.****Government Affairs | Tech Policy • Google**

Elizabeth Pishny leads engagement with the current presidential administration and U.S. Congress for Google's government affairs team, working with elected officials and think tanks on technology and national security policy. She previously helped launch international operations for a tech firm in Singapore and a microfinance organization in the Dominican Republic and held public affairs roles at Facebook and Bazaarvoice. Committed to civic leadership, she is active with the American Enterprise Institute, IRI's Women's Democracy Network, and the Foundation for Defense of Democracies. On fellowship in Brazil and South Korea, she explored AI development with the aim of advancing international collaboration to promote responsible innovation and economic growth for the benefit of society.

**Kenneth Smith | MELBOURNE, FL****Deputy Launch Director • Blue Origin**

Kenneth Smith is an aerospace engineer at Blue Origin, where he leads the integration and testing of lunar landers designed to deliver cargo and scientific payloads to the Moon. He previously held senior engineering roles at NASA and SpaceX. He is developing a modular, low-cost CubeSat laboratory to support science missions on the Moon and Mars, with plans to scale it through international collaboration. On fellowship in Australia and India, he studied the space policy and education models in these countries that promote innovation and global cooperation in space exploration.




Daniela Velázquez | ST. LOUIS, MO
Alderman · City of St. Louis

Daniela Velázquez is the first Latina elected to the St. Louis Board of Aldermen, where she represents the city's 6th Ward and leads efforts to make local government more transparent and accessible. She sponsored Proposition V to address the city's vacancy crisis

and helped launch the Gateway Card, a municipal ID co-designed with residents and partners. A former journalist and communications strategist, she has led civic engagement campaigns for the ACLU of Missouri and national advocacy organizations. On fellowship in Germany and Colombia, she explored open government models and digital engagement strategies to help support St. Louis's application to join the Open Government Partnership Local program.


Bryan Weisbard | SAN FRANCISCO, CA
Director Product Management Leadership | Trust & Safety, Integrity and Risk · DoorDash

Bryan Weisbard leads Trust & Safety, Fraud and Integrity product teams at DoorDash, where he builds digital capabilities to protect users from fraud and abuse. A former executive at

Meta, Intuit and Twitter, Weisbard has developed AI-driven tools and crisis response capabilities to reduce online harm and strengthen digital security. He has served in the U.S. Intelligence Community with a focus on counterterrorism and financial security. Weisbard is a Certified Public Accountant and Certified Fraud Examiner. On fellowship in Australia and Singapore, he explored public-private models used to prevent digital scams and developed a real-time fraud prevention and reporting tool for vulnerable populations.

2025 ZHI-XING CHINA PROGRAM


Alen Amini | CINCINNATI, OH
Project Leader · Boston Consulting Group

Alen Amini is a project leader at Boston Consulting Group, providing strategic advice to governments agencies, businesses and social-impact organizations. He also is the executive director of Starfire Council, a nonprofit that has helped build community connections for

individuals with developmental disabilities for 30 years. On fellowship, Amini learned how China has integrated individuals with physical or cognitive disabilities into society through its inclusion laws.


Jonathan Chaparro | CHICAGO, IL
Co-founder and Executive Director · Braven

Jonathan Chaparro is the co-founder and executive director of Braven, a Chicago-based nonprofit that equips first-generation and low-income college students with skills and networks for meaningful careers. Since 2017, Braven has grown from 18 employees and a \$2.8 million budget

to 170 employees and a \$37 million budget, serving 12,000 graduates across six U.S. markets. Previously, Chaparro worked for Teach for America, McKinsey & Company, ArcelorMittal, and Noble Schools. On fellowship, he studied how China's workforce development strategies transformed its agrarian society into a global leader in technology and innovation.


Nate Engle | LANSING, MI
Director of Community Engagement · Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Nathaniel Engle, an expert in food safety, regenerative agriculture and livestock diseases, advises Michigan's Department of Agriculture on animal health and preventing animal-to-human disease spillover.

Previously, he served in Madagascar with the Peace Corps, helping establish a chocolate factory that supplied major U.S. retailers. On fellowship, he studied China's approaches to mitigating animal diseases and managing outbreaks, aiming to enhance Michigan's policy planning and practices.


Amilcar Guzman | CHICAGO, IL
Program Officer · Pritzker Family Foundation

Amilcar Guzman is a program officer with the Pritzker Family Foundation, focusing on the Children's Initiative, a national effort committed to ensuring that families with young children aged 0-3 have the support they need to thrive. Previously, Guzman worked as a Director for the

League of Women Voters, Casa de Maryland and U.S. congressional subcommittees. On fellowship, he explored cross-cultural learning opportunities for professionals and families with young children in the United States and China.


Jimmy Hallyburton | BOISE, ID
City Council Member · City of Boise

Jimmy Hallyburton, a Boise City Council member, has championed 112 miles of walking and biking pathways, a \$570 million water system bond and a zoning code overhaul. After a near-fatal bike accident involving a child in 2015, he collaborated with Idaho's governor to

improve bike safety in the state's driver's manual and test. On fellowship, he explored how China balances its tradition of bicycle commuting with rising car use, aiming to create a framework for building more bike-friendly communities in the United States.



Yocasta Lora | PHILADELPHIA, PA
Associate State Director of Advocacy and Community Engagement • AARP Pennsylvania

Yocasta Lora is associate state director of advocacy and community engagement for AARP Pennsylvania, focusing on the state's 1.8 million AARP members aged 50 and above. She leads initiatives on housing, transportation, livable communities, veterans' affairs and educational programming. On fellowship, Lora studied China's multigenerational parks, which promote physical activity, intergenerational connections and memory preservation. She plans to apply these insights to park development in the United States, addressing the growing population of Americans over 65.



Amanda Morrall | WASHINGTON, D.C.
Executive Director • Founder Forward

Amanda Morrall is the executive director of Founder Forward, which provides grant funding, training, community and storytelling to equip diverse founders with the investment readiness needed to scale businesses in emerging U.S. markets. She is also the co-founder and CEO of Ignite Social Impact Summit, a platform for changemakers. Since 2023, she has united more than 200 leaders from diverse fields to tackle global challenges and redefine philanthropic strategies through social-science research. Previously, she held administrative roles with United Way and Tulsa public schools. On fellowship, she laid the groundwork for an Ignite Social Impact Summit, fostering U.S.-China collaborations on social issues such as impact investing and corporate social responsibility.



Felix Quiñones-Nieves | ALBANY, NY
Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and Research • Xiente

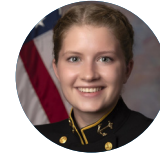
Felix Quiñones-Nieves is vice president of strategic initiatives and research at Xiente, a Philadelphia nonprofit serving the local Latino community with education, financial counseling, youth development and affordable housing. The group has constructed 300 houses and provides advocacy and support services. Quiñones-Nieves spearheaded its digital transformation, replacing paper-based systems with modern technology tools. On fellowship, he studied China's efforts to reduce poverty and aims to create a knowledge-sharing platform and crowdfunding model for targeted anti-poverty projects.



Amit Sarin | SAN JOSE, CA
Co-Founder • BalanceAI

Amit Sarin is the co-founder of BalanceAI, a startup that enhances efficiency of HVAC systems. Previously he served as a senior executive at View, an AI company that manufactures smart windows. While there, he led the real estate division, overseeing financing, business development and sales. On fellowship, he studied China's HVAC technology in order to improve air quality and reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. His goal is to enhance grid stability and lower energy costs for low-income households.

2025 GLOBAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM



Emily Boutin
IE University, School of Global and Public Affairs

Emily Boutin, 21, a 2024 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, knows firsthand the impact of war on military families. Parts of her childhood were spent waiting for her father, a U.S. Army commander, to return safely from his combat deployments. Interning at the Pentagon and the U.S. Army War College, she researched the role of artificial intelligence in modern combat. On scholarship at IE University in Madrid, she studied how the U.S. can deploy advanced military technologies while ensuring they don't outpace the need for ethical rules to govern them.



Nate Jo
University of Oxford, Blavatnik School of Government

Nate Jo, 25, a 2022 graduate of Western Washington University, is passionate about housing policy reform. As a policy advisor in the office of the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Jo helped build an innovative, cloud-based monitoring tool that expands access to capital for disadvantaged entrepreneurs. A former Congressional intern, he also volunteered with The Trevor Project, a crisis-intervention group, to provide suicide-prevention counseling for LGBTQ youth. On scholarship at Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government, he studied how the United Kingdom administers low-income housing assistance.



John Richardson
University of Oxford, Blavatnik School of Government

John Richardson, 23, a University of Alabama graduate with a bachelor's degree in history and political science, was elected in his senior year to the Phi Beta Kappa honor society. As an editor of the school's Capstone Journal of Law and Public Policy, Richardson assigned and edited articles for publication. Throughout college, he volunteered as varsity soccer coach at a high school in 'a struggling school system in Tuscaloosa County, using sports to teach life lessons about character, leadership and hard work. In 2022, he founded a chapter of Farmhouse International, a fraternity that holds its members to high academic and moral standards. On scholarship at Oxford, he studied how public policy is made, hoping to spend time in the office of a British Member of Parliament to compare the experience with his time as a former U.S. Congressional intern.



Axana Soltan
University of Oxford, Blavatnik School of Government

Axana Soltan, 26, a graduate of the Honors Academy of Virginia Commonwealth University and a law graduate from the George Washington University Law School, is a passionate advocate for female empowerment. Born in Afghanistan under the repressive Taliban regime, she witnessed the injustice of girls being denied access to education. With the nonprofit organization Enhancing Children's Lives, she established the inaugural women's library and solar powered ed tech radio platform in Afghanistan. She has been a Princeton University researcher on world affairs, a United Nations policy advisor, a volunteer with the International Rescue Committee, a girl's education advocate with the Malala Fund and has served in other roles supporting marginalized communities.



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