



MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP

FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS

FLAGSHIP PROGRAM OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS INITIATIVE (YALI)



“Our hope is...is that 10, 15, 20 years from now, when you’ve all gone on to be ministers in government, or leaders in business, or pioneers of social change, that you’ll still be connecting with each other, that you’ll still be learning from each other, and that together, you’ll be reaching back and helping the next generation... That’s my hope for you.”

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

2015 TOWN HALL WITH MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOWS

The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, the flagship program of President Obama’s Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), empowers young leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa through academic coursework, leadership training, and networking opportunities. The Fellowship provides these outstanding young leaders with the opportunity to hone their skills at a U.S. institution of higher education, with support for professional development after they return home.

U.S.-BASED ACTIVITIES

Academic and Leadership Institutes

Each Mandela Washington Fellow takes part in a six-week academic and leadership institute at a U.S. university or college in one of three tracks: Business and Entrepreneurship, Civic Leadership, or Public Management. New in 2016 will be a specialized Institute on Energy. As the majority of Fellows have not previously spent significant time in the United States before their Institute, the Fellowship is forging new relationships between Africans and Americans, both at the host colleges and in the surrounding communities.

Presidential Summit

Following the academic residency of the Fellowship, the Fellows visit Washington, DC, for a Presidential Summit featuring a Town Hall with President Obama. During this multi-day event, Fellows take part in networking and panel discussions with U.S. leaders from the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

Professional Development Experience

Up to one hundred competitively-selected Fellows remain in the United States after the Presidential Summit to participate in individually tailored six-week professional development experiences. These Fellows are placed with U.S. non-governmental organizations, private companies, and government agencies that relate to their professional interests and goals.



AFRICA-BASED ACTIVITIES

Upon returning to their home countries, Fellows continue to build the skills they have developed during their time in the United States through support from U.S. embassies and programming from USAID and affiliated partners, including regional conferences, professional practicum experiences, and mentoring and networking opportunities.

For more information on the Mandela Washington Fellowship, visit MandelaWashingtonFellowship.state.gov. The Mandela Washington Fellowship is the flagship program of President Obama’s Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI).

The Mandela Washington Fellowship is a program of the U.S. government and supported in its implementation by IREX.



The Fellows, who are between the ages of 25 and 35, have established records of accomplishment in promoting innovation and positive change in their organizations, institutions, communities, and countries. In 2014 and 2015, 500 Fellows representing all 49 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa participated in the program each year. Because of the high demand for and success of the program, the Fellowship will double in 2016 to include 1,000 Fellows. These young leaders represent the diversity of Africa including equal numbers of women and men, individuals with disabilities, and people from both urban and rural areas.



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