



MANDELA
WASHINGTON
FELLOWSHIP
FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS



HOWARD UNIVERSITY

2023





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HOWARD

UNIVERSITY



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HOWARD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
CHARLES R. DREW PROFESSOR OF SURGERY

June 18, 2023

Dear Mandela Washington Fellows,

Congratulations on being selected for this prestigious program, and welcome to Howard University! It is a pleasure and a privilege to host you on our campus in Washington, D.C. The Mecca, as Howard is known to those inside and outside our community, is a perfect setting for the journey you are about to embark upon, where you will develop your skills as future civic leaders in our globalized world.

Since Howard's founding in 1867 by federal charter with a particular mission to educate the freed slaves moving from the South to the North, our institution has been tasked with leading the caravan of social justice – not only to enhance opportunities for the Black community in the United States, but for oppressed and marginalized people all over the world. Howard has truly been a mecca for aspiring leaders and civic servants to empower themselves with skills and knowledge and to discover their unique purpose in life.

In our efforts to cultivate a more just and equal world, Howard has emphasized its connection with Africa. Individuals from African countries have been core members of our community for generations. From student leaders to illustrious faculty members, our African peers and colleagues have sought out Howard to further their personal missions. We have also cultivated numerous partnerships throughout the continent of Africa that enhance the educational opportunities of our students while giving them a chance to serve communities and people who are most in need of their support.

Howard's motto is "truth and service." This seemingly simple directive – to discover the truth and use that knowledge to serve our communities – also guided Nelson Mandela, who unapologetically proclaimed the truth for the world to hear and advocated for the best interest of all citizens of South Africa. Now, you are poised to follow in that path.

You were selected for this program because of your talents as well as your passion to cultivate a more prosperous future for Africa and the Diaspora. In this program, you are joining a long list of Howard University trailblazers who have been inspired by their surroundings at the Mecca to do good in the world.

I wish you great success this summer, and throughout your careers.

Excellence in Truth and Service,



Wayne A. I. Frederick, M.D., MBA
Charles R. Drew Professor of Surgery
President



HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost and
Chief Academic Officer

June 13, 2023

Dear Mandela Washington Fellows,

It is my great honor to welcome you to the Mandela Washington Fellowship (MWF), and in particular to the historic Howard University! Congratulations on your selection to participate in this cohort! Howard University was founded in 1867, and has been providing educational opportunities of exceptional quality to men and women from the United States and throughout the African Diaspora since our establishment. We truly live in an interconnected global world. This is demonstrated by the many faculty, staff and students at Howard University who are African natives. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has also demonstrated our global connectedness, and how rapidly we can be adversely impacted by disease, especially if governments, people, and institutions do not work collaboratively towards the greater good. Your participation as an MWF Fellow is evidence of the need for us to partner together to create greater opportunities for the people of Africa, share ideas and vision, and also plot a dynamic course for the future of the continent. It is my goal that you will not only learn and benefit from the courses, site visits and from each other, but that we will learn just as much from you, and the experiences and talents that you bring.

As the Provost, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to our colleagues at the Department of State, IREX, and each of you for your participation. Additionally, many individuals including administrative staff, as well as the faculty and volunteer students have contributed to the experience that you will share. The success of our program would certainly not be possible without the combined contributions of volunteers from various departments and schools at the University, as well as other organizations who are assisting us.

We invite you to take this opportunity to share our excitement, enjoy our historic campus, renew old friendships and establish valuable new networks. Welcome, and I trust that you each will have an interesting, challenging, and fruitful experience that will positively impact your lives. God bless.

Excellence in Truth and Service,



Anthony K. Wutoh, Ph.D., R.Ph.
Provost and Chief Academic Officer





The Mandela Washington Fellowship (MWF) for Young African Leaders is the flagship program of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) that empowers young leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa through academic coursework, leadership training, and networking opportunities. The Fellowship began in 2014 and has already engaged 3,000 young leaders from every country in Sub-Saharan Africa. Through this initiative, young African leaders are gaining the skills and connections they need to accelerate their career trajectories and contribute more robustly to strengthening democratic institutions, spurring economic growth, and enhancing African peace and security. The Mandela Washington Fellowship is a program of the United States Government. The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs administers the U.S. components and is supported by IREX, a U.S. non-governmental agency.

The Fellows have established records of accomplishment in promoting innovation and positive impact in their organizations, institutions, communities, and countries. The first four classes of Fellows represented all 49 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and included equal numbers of men and women.

The 2023 class of Mandela Washington Fellows arrive in Mid-June 2023 for six weeks of intensive executive leadership training, networking, and skills building, followed by a 3-day Summit in Washington, D.C., that all 700 fellows will attend.

Host institutes focus on skills development in one of three areas:

- Business and Entrepreneurship
- Civic Leadership
- Public Management

Howard University (HU) is a comprehensive research university, unique and irreplaceable, defined by its core values, the excellence of all its activities in instruction, research, and service, and by its enduring commitment to educating youth, African Americans, and other people of color in particular, for leadership and service to our nation and the global community. Howard University offers a Public Management track. This is drawn from the university's unique set of expertise and resources. Public Management Institutes are tailored to those who work, or aspire to work, in all levels of government, regional or international organizations, or other publicly minded groups and think tanks. The Institutes introduce Fellows to U.S. models and best practices while building technical and leadership capacity in areas such as citizen engagement, human resource management, public financial management, and the intersection of government with business and civil society. The overarching objective of the Mandela Washington Fellowship Institute in Public Management is to provide a culturally diverse experience to Young African leaders to assist in building capacity as it relates to public management on the African continent.

Historically, policies encouraging information and technology (homegrown through education/ research or technology transfer and adaptation) through competition and inclusiveness (diversity) have been the key to sustained economic growth. This program will emphasize this aspect and understanding of the importance of growing small businesses for economic growth through case discussion and open discussion using research papers/ case studies to place the dialogue in context. Academic study is augmented by workshops, mentorship, peer collaboration, and networking opportunities with recognized leaders in their perspective fields. The educational content addresses topics such as good governance, female leadership in government, woman and girl empowerment, gender stereotypes, Ethics and Value-Based Leadership, and the role of technology and social media in reshaping governance. Fellows will be prepared for an academically and professionally challenging program.

Howard University Overview

In November 1866, shortly after the end of the Civil War, members of the First Congregational Society of Washington considered establishing a theological seminary to educate African- American clergy members. Within a few weeks, the concept expanded to include a provision for establishing a university. Within two years, the University consisted of the colleges of Liberal Arts and Medicine. The new institution was named for General Oliver O. Howard, a Civil War hero who was both a founder of the University and, at the same time, commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau.



The University charter was enacted by Congress and subsequently approved by President Andrew Johnson on March 2, 1867, designated Howard University as "a university for the education of youth in the liberal arts and sciences." The Freedmen's Bureau provided most of the early financial support for the University. In 1879, Congress approved a special appropriation for the University. The charter was amended in 1928 to authorize annual federal funding for the University's construction, development, improvement, and maintenance.



Howard University is one of the nation's leading research universities and is dedicated to educating students from diverse backgrounds at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional level, with a particular focus on African-American students, as well as those of all other racial and ethnic groups from the United States and around the world. The University received its first accreditation from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools in 1921 and has had its accreditation reaffirmed by the Association at every required interval thereafter.

Howard is a unique university with a special mission that addresses the nation's and world's higher education needs. Since its founding, Howard has been open to men and women from all racial and ethnic groups. The University has awarded more than 100,000 arts, sciences, and humanities degrees. Howard ranks among the highest producers of the nation's Black professionals in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, engineering, nursing, architecture, religion, law, music, social work, and education. The University has long held a commitment to the education and advancement of disadvantaged persons in American society and worldwide. The goal is the elimination of inequities related to race, color, social, economic and political circumstances.

The University's academic programs are offered by 14 schools and colleges: the College of Arts and Sciences; the School of Business; the School of Communications; the College of Dentistry; the School of Divinity; the School of Education; the College of Engineering and Architecture; the School of Law; the College of Medicine; the College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences; the College of Pharmacy; the School of Social Work; and the College of Fine Arts.



Howard's motto, Veritas et Utilitas, or Truth and Service, is woven throughout its academic, student, faculty, and research programs. Students, faculty, and staff are actively involved in community, local, national, and global service efforts to create awareness and provide solutions to help improve the quality of life in many communities.

Howard University Hospital has a 145-year history of providing the finest primary, secondary, and tertiary health care services, a Level 1 Trauma Center. It has become one of the most comprehensive healthcare facilities in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area.

The College of Medicine is internationally regarded for its illustrious legacy of training students to become competent and compassionate physicians who provide health care in medically underserved communities at home and abroad. The College is a national leader in studying health disparities among people of color and is one of America's top institutions for training women surgeons. The Howard University Health Sciences division includes the Howard University Hospital and Colleges of Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Health Sciences.

For more than 140 years, the Howard University School of Law has advocated for social justice and as an architect of social change. It has produced more than 4,000 social engineers, including the first African-American Supreme Court Justice, noted legislators, civil rights attorneys, mayors, and public officials across the United States. In 2012, National Jurist magazine ranked the Law School among the top 20 public service schools.

Howard is a leader in STEM fields. The National Science Foundation has ranked Howard as the top producer of African-American undergraduates who later earn science and engineering doctoral degrees. The University also produces more minority doctoral graduates in computer science than any other university nationwide and boasts nationally-ranked programs in social work, business, and communication sciences and disorders. In 2013, The Washington Post named Howard "An Incubator for Cinematographers."

The University library system, typifying Howard's commitment to research, contains more than two million volumes and is a member of the Association of Research Libraries. Among the system's many resources are the state-of-the-art Louis Stokes Health Science Library and the Law Library, which opened in 2001. In addition, the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center houses one of the world's largest and most comprehensive research collections dedicated to documenting the history and culture of people of African descent worldwide.

The University has an array of media outlets that address the educational, social, economic, and informational needs of the academic and broader communities. Its radio station, WHUR-FM, and television station, WHUT-TV, a PBS affiliate, serve the Washington metropolitan area and beyond. Each provides training laboratories that prepare students for professional broadcasting and other careers.

Howard University Television, WHUT-TV, was founded in 1980 and was the nation's first African-American-owned public television station. It is also the only university-licensed public television station in the metropolitan Washington viewing area, including more than three million households. www.whut.org.

The University's commercial radio station, WHUR-FM, has been broadcasting for over 34 years and is a leading station in the Washington metropolitan area. It is also the first and only station in the area to broadcast high-definition radio. www.whur.com and www.whurworld.com. Celebrating over 30 years on air, WHBC Howard University's student-operated radio station is a major media outlet for the student body. WHBC Channel 51 has the campus' ear and is a part of the Howard student collegiate lifestyle.

The University's main campus is located in Washington, DC, within five miles of the United States Capitol and consists of more than 57 buildings on more than 89 acres of land. It also maintains a 22-acre West Campus in upper Northwest Washington, which houses the Law School; a 22-acre campus in Northeast Washington; and a 108-acre Beltsville, Maryland research campus, which houses a major atmospheric science research facility. The 450 licensed-bed university hospital (Howard University Hospital) provides services for a significant segment of the Washington, DC metropolitan community and provides a clinical setting for training physicians, nurses, and other healthcare providers.

The University fields teams in 19 varsity sports, including basketball, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, indoor and outdoor track, and volleyball. Howard has over 10,000 students from virtually every state, the District of Columbia, and more than 70 countries.

Today, Howard University is one of only 48 U.S. private, Doctoral/Research-Extensive universities. Its students enjoy academic pursuits in more than 120 areas of study, leading to undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees. Over the last 20 years, the University has produced four Rhodes Scholars, 11 Truman Scholars, two Marshall Scholars, over 80 Fulbright recipients, 22 Pickering Fellows, and one Schwarzman Scholar. The University continues to attract the nation's top students and produces more on-campus African- American Ph.D. recipients than any other university in the United States.

Achievements and Accolades include:

- Howard University is the leading producer of African American students entering medical schools in the U.S.
- The National Science Foundation cites Howard University as the top producer of African American undergraduates who later earn PhDs in natural sciences.
- Ranked No. 34 on U.S. News & World Report's 2019 Best Undergraduate Teaching Programs list.
- The School of Business earned the number 1 spot by Princeton Review as the "greatest opportunity for minority students."
- The No. 1 producer of African Americans earning degrees in communications and journalism by *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*.
- The School of Law is the No. 2 law degree producer for African Americans by *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*.
- The highest number of HBCU Rhodes Scholars to study at the University of Oxford.
- The only HBCU ranked in the top 100 on U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges list.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

Howard University, a culturally diverse, comprehensive, research-intensive, and historically Black private university, provides an educational experience of exceptional quality at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels to students of high academic standing and potential, with particular emphasis on educational opportunities for Black students. Moreover, the University is dedicated to attracting and sustaining a cadre of faculty who are, through their teaching, research, and service, committed to the development of distinguished, historically aware, and compassionate graduates and to the discovery of solutions to human problems in the United States and throughout the world. With an abiding interest in domestic and international affairs, the University is committed to producing leaders for America and the global community. (Approved by the Board of Trustees, June 2009.)

The University Core Values include: Excellence, leadership, service, and truth are our core values. Howard aims to forward the development of scholars and professionals who drive change and engage in scholarship that provides solutions to contemporary global problems, particularly ones impacting the African Diaspora.



Meet Our 2023 Administration Team:



Anthony K. Wutoh
Program Director, Provost
and Chief Academic Officer
Ph.D., R.Ph.



Pamela Carter-Nolan
Academic Director
Ph.D., MPH



Cudore L. Snell
Co-Academic Director
M.S.W., D.S.W.,
L.I.C.S.W. DS.



Gwynette P. Lacy
Administrative Director
Ph.D, MBA



Prof. Cathy House
Leadership Manager
MBA



Elsie L. Scott
Co-Administrative
Director
Ph.D



Jeronimo Augusto
Program Manager
MHSA



Lucinda Acquaye-Doyle
Program Manager
Ph.D., MSW



Subodh Kulkarni
Key Faculty
Ph.D



Elton Levingston
Program Assistant



Jalissa Worthy
Program Assistant



Nadia Whalen
Program Assistant



Temidayo Famakinwa
Program Assistant



Takovah Townsend
Program Assistant





Meet Our 2023 Fellows:



Mahounou Sother Aime Gbede
Benin



Mahounou Sother Aimé Gbede has three years of experience implementing nutrition, food, and health projects in vulnerable communities. He has contributed to the fight against child malnutrition, food insecurity, and early childhood development gaps. Currently, Mahounou is nutrition volunteer officer at the Association Arnaud Biaou pour la Lutte contre la Drépanocytose, an organization that combats sickle-cell disease in Benin. Mahounou holds a bachelor's degree in Nutrition and Dietetics. He is driven to help rural communities in their battle against poor nutrition, food insecurity, and the consequences of malnutrition. His work in rural communities has allowed him to see firsthand the consequences of climate change, which is affecting the food security of people in Benin. Mahounou is very open to learning from others and believes that when people work together they can create a better world. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Mahounou plans to enhance his influence in the effort to bring better nutrition to vulnerable communities, to lead young people to help tackle community problems, and to have dialogues with community heads and decision makers to ensure that the nutritional realities of individual communities are taken into account before projects are designed.

Emmanuel Roamba has more than five years of experience in the field of sustainable development. Currently, Emmanuel is an economic affairs advisor at the Ministry of Industrial Development, Trade, Handicrafts, and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (specifically at the General Directorate of Handicraft) in Burkina Faso, contributing to the elaboration and implementation of the government's policy on the handicrafts sector. Emmanuel also volunteers in several associations and is cofounder and president of Model United Nations/Burkina Faso, an association that promotes the values of sustainable development and trains young people on major contemporary issues. Emmanuel holds three master's degrees—one in Economics and Finance, a second in Environmental Management, and a third in Intellectual Property Management. Emmanuel is passionate about sustainable development issues and is committed to contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Emmanuel plans to design development projects that target artisans and youth and to develop innovative strategies to raise funds for their implementation. Emmanuel also plans to establish a consulting firm to provide services in the areas of sustainable development and intellectual property.



Emmanuel Roamba
Burkina Faso





NGbesso Roselyne Pulcherie Tetchi
Epse Monsoh
Cote d'Ivoire



Roselyne Tetchi has more than seven years of experience in public health. Currently, Roselyne works as a general practitioner and project investigator at Unité de Soins Ambulatoire et de Conseils, focusing on examining patients, preventing cancer, and treating chronic and sexually transmitted diseases. Roselyne is committed to giving smiles to each of her patients. Enriched by her time in the pediatric department, she cares for children living with HIV in her center. Roselyne is driven to make significant changes in the medical policy of Côte d'Ivoire, and she works to promote the well-being of her nation. Roselyne holds a doctorate in Medicine and is working toward a higher education certificate in Public Health at Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny (Côte d'Ivoire). Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Roselyne plans to take care of more vulnerable people and help spread her organization throughout the country.

With a master's degree in Social Justice, Human Rights, and Culture from the University of London in the United Kingdom, Grâce Bachoke Joan is a leader who has witnessed the discrimination faced by children and women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). His struggle for the rights of children and women in the DRC has earned him several national and international awards, including a Chevening Scholarship (2020-2021) from the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office. As a protection and education expert in numerous countries and with many donors, Grâce also leads the advocacy campaign among rural communities in Africa and the DRC. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Grâce intends to contribute to the implementation of the convention on children's rights. He will ensure that every time he carries out and defends children's rights, he is contributing to the transformation of neglected communities and the restoration of lost dignity.



Joan Bachoke Grace
Democratic Republic of the
Congo (DRC)





Diana Tuekpe is a public health advocate with more than 15 years of experience in conducting community outreach, working on public health campaigns, and helping underserved communities transform their health. Currently, Diana is public health researcher at the Community Health Department of the University of Ghana Medical School focusing on generating data to track Ghana's progress toward achieving health-related Sustainable Development Goals as part of a World Health Organization project. Diana holds a master's degree in Public Health and a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry. Diana's professional goal is to impart knowledge through research, teaching, and leadership. As a female leader in STEM, Diana aspires to be at the heart of public health decision making and wants to contribute to the body of research that influences health policies and drives change in Ghana. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Diana plans to use health promotion and education as a tool to address challenges that affect health in Africa and the world at large.



Diana Abena Makafui Tuekpe
Ghana



Lisebo Elizabeth Ramakatsa
Lesotho



Lisebo Ramakatsa has more than 10 years of experience in human resource management. Currently, Lisebo is human resource manager at Jhpiego Lesotho, where she focuses on policy implementation, research, training and development, recruitment, promotion of good communication and employee engagement, good governance, labor relations, promotion, and management of equity, inclusion, and diversity. Lisebo is a Ph.D. candidate and has a master's degree in Business Management. She is passionate about good governance, policing in the public and private sectors, and employee development that fosters a safe and inclusive environment and that ultimately contributes to Lesotho's economic and societal development. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Lisebo intends to implement everything she learned in the program to develop her workspace, the community, and the stakeholders she is connected with and to influence Lesotho's human resource management as a whole.



Pule Solomon Moabi has more than 11 years of experience in nursing education. Currently, Pule Solomon is the principal at Lesotho's Scott College of Nursing, focusing on providing strategic direction to the college. In addition, he is a simulation expert who has mentored midwifery schools in Sierra Leone. He holds a Ph.D. in Nursing and is committed to improving the quality of teaching and learning. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, he plans to improve nursing education in Lesotho.



Pule Solomon Moabi
Lesotho



Dalitso Sydney Chikoti
Malawi



Dalitso Chikoti is an economist with more than seven years of experience. Currently, he is principal economist at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Malawi where he formulates project proposals, facilitates the development and implementation of programs, and coordinates the formulation and review of policies. Dalitso holds a master's degree in Economics. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Dalitso plans to use the knowledge and skills gained to make his work in policy and planning more effective.



Janice-Love Bropleh has more than eight years of experience in administration and business development within the private and public sectors in Liberia. Currently, Janice-Love is human resource and administrative manager at the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission and focuses on managing job design, recruitment, employee relations, performance management, training and development, and talent management. She believes it is important to have a positive work atmosphere where everyone can thrive. Janice-Love has played pivotal roles on projects at different international organizations pertaining to entrepreneurship, administration, agriculture, and youth development. She holds a master's degree in International Business, a bachelor's degree in Public Administration, and a professional certification in Project Management. To maintain the values that distinguish a leader, Janice-Love is dedicated to promoting openness and transparency, assisting individuals in realizing their full potential, and creating institutional growth and development policies. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Janice-Love plans to create initiatives that boost employment and ensure that everyone has access to adequate jobs, which will reduce poverty and inequalities and create fair working conditions for women, youth, and people living with disabilities.



Janice Love Bropleh
Liberia



Soukeine Mohamed Saleh
Mauritania



Soukeine Mohamed Saleh is a detail-oriented and results-driven risk adviser with more than three years of experience in project management and consulting. She currently works as a regional project manager at Marsh McLennan, advising multinational organizations on their human capital risks and recommending solutions to retain and attract the best talent. Soukeina holds a master's degree in Economics from the University of Warwick. She is passionate about economic development. She spent several years volunteering as an English teacher for refugees in the United Kingdom. She also worked for the United Nations Children's Fund, raising funds for underprivileged children. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Soukeina plans to start a platform to mentor Mauritanian women and support them in their education and careers. She also plans to focus on development work, with a long-term goal of implementing adequate public policies in Mauritania.



Shaheen Beeharry has five years of experience in education. Currently, Shaheen is senior learning experience designer at the African Leadership University in Mauritius, where she focuses on the development of a decentralized learning ecosystem across continental Africa. She is also a designer for the African Union Commission, United Nations Development Programme, African Young Women Leaders Fellowship program, and she is a consultant for Brink, a social innovation firm. In addition, Shaheen is a volunteer e-tutor for the School of Leadership in Afghanistan. Shaheen holds a bachelor's degree in Advertising, Public Relations, and Media. She is driven to enhance South-South cooperation by contributing to transnational networks of solidarity and knowledge through cross-border exchanges to create worlds where belongingness, mobilities, and historical memory are not luxuries afforded to the few. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Shaheen plans to pursue further education to support her in building systems that promote sustainable ways of living and plural ways of being.



Shaheen Banon Beeharry
Mauritius



Naomi Vanessa Castelo Andate
Mozambique



Naomi Andate is a graduate of the University of Macau with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Currently, she is a senior fieldwork coordinator at RSM Mozambique, where she focuses on monitoring and evaluating development and humanitarian programs, including third-party assessments of funding cycles to ensure that programs are meeting donor and local stakeholder expectations. Naomi has a mission to better understand people's knowledge of, attitudes toward, and practices in public health and education interventions across Mozambique so that those people's voices are heard. Naomi is driven by being able to make an impact on young girls lives directly or indirectly. Naomi is also passionate about influencing young girls in her community through dance. Therefore, upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Naomi intends to apply all the skills, knowledge, and experience she has gained to see other girls and young women flourish and build their futures.



Ouma Djamila Mahamane Laminou
Niger



Ouma Djamila Mahamane Laminou has nine years of experience in project management, public finance, and allied fields. Currently, Djamila is an operations and program manager. She shares and uses her expertise at a nonprofit organization that trains young Nigerians and assists in their professional integration in the digital field. For the past five years, she has worked for a company that specializes in developing public finance applications. During her tenure, she has acquired a good knowledge base about public finance and trained more than 200 people. Djamila holds a master's degree in Project Management. She believes that shortcomings in public administration are a brake on the progress of developing countries., and she is committed to becoming an actor in the changes in public administration. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Djamila plans to continue working with public institutions and young Nigerians to take part in a change of mentality and lead a reflection on the approach the public administration should take to achieve a policy of sustainable development suitable in the African context.

Jessica Enitan Abraham-Oba has more than eight years of experience in public service. Jessica is the council leader representing Nigeria's Ipakodo Ward A at the Ikorodu West Local Council Development Area Legislative Assembly. There, she focuses on bringing the great dividend of democracy to the people at the grassroots level. She volunteers for various community organizations, including the Ikorodu Ambassadors, and is founder of the Ipakodo Petty Traders support project. Jessica holds a Bachelor of Science in Pure and Industrial Chemistry from Ahmadu Bello University and a master's degree in Public and International Affairs from the University of Lagos. She is committed to selfless service and is open to learning more about becoming a great thought leader. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Jessica aspires to be an agent of positive change. Her quest will be to assume leadership positions in the areas of governance and policy making to improve the lives of the people in her community. She also hopes to continue her humanitarian services, including the Petty Traders Support Initiative.



Jessica Enitan Abraham Oba
Nigeria





Aisha Jaafar Muhammad has more than five years of experience as a medical doctor and more than three years of experience providing online health education to women of reproductive age. Aisha works on the management board at Kano State Hospital. She is also a member of the Nigerian Medical Association and the Medical Women Association of Nigeria. Aisha has educated more than 10,000 women of reproductive age on their health issues. She is passionate about helping her fellow northern Nigerian women to achieve and maintain optimal reproductive health to help reduce maternal morbidity and mortality and about improving the overall health of women. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Aisha plans to include women in rural areas by organizing routine physical health education programs in villages and rural areas.



Aisha Muhammad Jaafar
Nigeria



Ndèye Banna Diop
Senegal



Ndèye Banna Diop has more than five years of experience in education, youth, and sports, Ndèye is the head of the Regional Youth, Entrepreneurship, and Employment Service of Dakar and focuses on promoting the Ministry of Youth's National Youth Policy at the regional level. She implements the programs of the ministry in terms of education for citizenship, volunteering, socio-sanitary protection, associative life, and socioeconomic integration of youth. Ndèye has worked at the Directorate of Associative Life and was the head of Youth Services of Guinguinéo and Kaolack. She has also worked at the National Agency for Statistics and Demography. Ndèye holds a master's degree in Literatures and Civilizations of the English-Speaking World from Gaston Berger University in Senegal. She is passionate about working with youth because she is convinced that the only lever for the development of her country remains with its youth, so all her actions support that belief. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Ndèye plans to transform Senegal's youth public policies into beneficial actions that will positively impact the lives of youth.



Cleo Loubser has more than 10 years of experience in occupational therapy and mental health. Currently, Cleo is an occupational therapist. She recently completed assessing a City of Cape Town driven transitional housing program and developing strategies to improve its efficacy, and she is also facilitating therapeutic group sessions for a transitional housing program at Mold, Empower, and Serve. Previously, she worked at Life Path Health Group in adolescent, addiction, and general psychiatry and in dual diagnosis. Cleo was also the youngest person to be elected to the YMCA Cape Town board, served on the board from 2008 to 2013, and was reelected in 2022. Cleo also serves on the board of the M&S School of Dance. Cleo has a bachelor's degree and master's degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of the Western Cape. Cleo is committed to designing and providing therapy-focused programs that provide vulnerable people with the skills to understand themselves and work through past traumas and unhealthy coping mechanisms. Upon completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Cleo plans to design self-sufficient transitional housing and work readiness programs and assist other NGOs so that they can continue serving their communities and vulnerable people.



Cleo Elizabeth Loubser
South Africa



Yanele Nyamela
South Africa



Yanele Nyamela has more than eight years of experience working as an economist in private and public institutions. Currently, Yanele is senior economist at the National Treasury of South Africa where she monitors and evaluates economic developments in the tertiary sector. Outside of her work, Yanele volunteers as a program director at Sprout Academic Empowerment Initiative, a nonprofit organization that tutors and mentors high school pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds. She holds a master's degree in Public Policy from the London School of Economics and a master's degree in Economics from the University of Pretoria. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Yanele hopes to contribute to the economic transformation and growth agenda of South Africa by finding rational solutions to policy problems that face the country.



Lerato Sono has more than seven years of experience in academia. Currently, Lerato is a lecturer at the University of Pretoria, where she teaches public policy and local government studies and supervises postgraduate students. Her work also entails conducting research for publication and presentation at national and international conferences. Her research areas of interest are public sector innovation, behavioral public administration, and organizational studies. Lerato holds a master's degree in Public Management (cum laude) and is currently pursuing her doctorate at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa. She is committed to using her role as an academic in the field of public administration and management to fulfill her calling to develop the next generation of young leaders and to produce research that can inform and transform the way societal issues are addressed. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Lerato plans to pursue activities both within and outside academia so that she can realize her dream of being counted among the high-impact leaders at the forefront of socioeconomic development in Africa.



Pinky Lerato Nicole Sono
South Africa



Daniel Joshua Msesa
Tanzania



Daniel Joshua Msesa has more than five years of experience in pharmaceutical science and research in Tanzania. Currently, Daniel is a research scientist at Zanzibar Health Research Institute and focuses on public health diseases. He also works part time as a dispenser in a community pharmacy and offers medicine and individualized health advice to customers. Daniel holds a bachelor's degree in Pharmacy and a master's degree in Public Health. Daniel is passionate about improving the health status of members of his community by reducing malnutrition in children and adolescents, eradicating communicable diseases, and decreasing the prevalence of waterborne illnesses. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Daniel aspires to advance his career as a researcher to ultimately become a respected researcher and leader in the field of public health, to make a meaningful impact on the well-being of individuals, and to improve health outcomes of members in his community.



Emmanuel Joshua Ngumbulu has more than eight years of experience in auditing. Emmanuel is a lead auditor at the Petroleum Upstream Regulatory Authority and focuses on auditing oil and gas production sharing contracts. He is also the chair of the Joint Technical Committee, which is responsible for promoting cooperation in the upstream oil and gas sector in Tanzania and Zanzibar. Emmanuel is passionate about serving his community by participating in discussions regarding children living with Down Syndrome disabilities and how to help them attain their goals without discrimination. Emmanuel holds a master's degree in Business Administration and is a Certified Internal Auditor and Certified Information Systems Auditor. Emmanuel is driven to ensure that the government maximizes its funding from contracts in his field and that the government then provides more public services to local communities. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Emmanuel plans to use his new knowledge, expertise, and leadership skills to enhance his efforts at work and in the community. He intends to establish a foundation to raise awareness and improve the education system for children with Down Syndrome in local communities.



Emmanuel Joshua Ngumbulu
Tanzania



David Okiror
Uganda



David Okiror has more than three years of experience as a medical doctor at Katakwi General Hospital in Uganda, providing preventive and curative services for maternal and child health. He is a malaria elimination fellow under the Africa Leadership and Management for Impact in Malaria Eradication. David runs a simulation center in the district hospital training maternity healthcare providers on newborn resuscitation and labor monitoring. He has trained village health teams on integrated community case management of malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea, which has improved access to timely malaria treatment. He is the charter president of the Rotary Club of Katakwi, a community services club affiliated with Rotary International. He holds a Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery from Mbarara University of Science and Technology. David is passionate about ending preventable causes of maternal and child morbidity and mortality and eliminating malaria. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, David plans to scale up mentorship on neonatal resuscitation and management of complications during childbirth; to strengthen the village health teams' skills and knowledge in malaria control, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment; and to pursue a master's degree in Public Health and eventually a doctorate in health systems and policy research.



Isaac Pomboloka has more than five years of expertise in clinical workflow design, HIV programming, digital health, and healthcare administration. Isaac is currently employed in Lusaka as an associate clinical specialist with a focus on HIV programming and the adoption of digital health. He has won two national literary awards and was designated Zambia's most influential author by CDI Zambia in 2021. In 2022, UK-based Zenith Global Health gave Isaac the Africa Healthcare Rising Star Award. He is now working toward a bachelor's degree in Public Health. Isaac is dedicated to using digital transformation to redefine how healthcare services are delivered in Africa. He is executive director of CIPA, a nonprofit organization that has helped more than 1,000 people develop their skills through short courses and has funded aspiring writers who are capturing the epic tales of Africa. Isaac intends to use the skills he will gain through the Mandela Washington Fellowship to carry out initiatives focused on youth development, HIV prevention, and digital health.



Isaac Pomboloka
Zambia



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