



MANDELA
WASHINGTON
FELLOWSHIP
FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS



CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

University of Illinois to Host Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders

The Center for African Studies (CAS) at the University of Illinois is proud to announce that it has been selected as a partner with the “Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders.” Beginning in mid-June, Illinois will host 25 of Africa’s brightest emerging leaders for a six-week academic and leadership institute in Public Management. Illinois is one of only four Institutions selected to host two programs (the other in Civic Leadership hosted by the Department of African American Studies) and the only new school in the 2016 cycle awarded two programs.

The [Mandela Washington Fellowship](#), the flagship program of President Obama’s [Young African Leaders Initiative](#) (YALI), empowers young African leaders through academic coursework, leadership training, mentoring, networking, professional opportunities, and support for activities in their communities. Fellows are young leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa who have established records of accomplishment in promoting innovation and positive change in their organizations, institutions, communities, and countries. The cohort of Fellows hosted by Illinois will be part of a larger group of 1,000 Mandela Washington Fellows hosted at institutions across the United States this summer. These exceptional young leaders will meet with President Obama at a Town Hall during the Presidential Summit in Washington, D.C.; select Fellows will also spend six weeks in professional development training with U.S. non-governmental organizations, private companies, and government agencies.

Working closely with the U.S. [Department of State’s Bureau of Educational Affairs](#) and its implementing partner, IREX, host institutions have designed academic programs that will challenge, inspire, and empower these inspiring young leaders from Africa.

The Center for African Studies (<http://www.afrst.illinois.edu/>) will collaborate with Illinois’ Safe Global Water Institute (<http://publish.illinois.edu/safeglobalwater/>) to offer a Public Management program focusing on issues of civil engineering, community development, civil/human rights, and public works (with particular attention paid to water, health, and waste management).

For more information about the program, or to become involved as a peer collaborator, please contact Terri Gitler (tgitler@illinois.edu; 217-265-5016) at the Center for African Studies.

The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders is a U.S. government program that is supported in its implementation by IREX. For more information about the Mandela Washington Fellowship, visit MandelaWashingtonFellowship.state.gov and join the conversation with [#YALI2016](#).

