2017 Mandela Washington Fellows
MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP

For the second consecutive year, The Ohio State University is one of just 38 academic institutions across the United States hosting a cohort of 25 Mandela Washington Fellows. The fellows are participating in a six-week public management and leadership institute from June 16 – July 28 organized by the John Glenn College of Public Affairs and the Center for African Studies. Ohio State’s program weaves a sequence of leadership development modules into the institute’s classroom activities, site visits, community service, cultural immersion, and professional networking opportunities, both on and off campus.

Launched in 2014, the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders is the flagship program of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) and embodies the United States’ commitment to invest in the future of Africa. The Mandela Washington Fellowship brings young leaders to the United States for academic coursework and leadership training and creates unique opportunities in Africa for Fellows to put new skills to practical use in leading organizations, communities, and countries. YALI was launched in 2010 to support young Africans as they spur growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security across Africa.

The Washington Mandela Fellows are men and women between 25 and 35, who have established records of accomplishment in promoting innovation and positive change in their respective organizations by being engaged in community development and youth mentorship.

JOHN GLENN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The John Glenn College of Public Affairs at Ohio State is committed to inspiring and developing the next generation of public and nonprofit professionals who can handle complex issues and make change a reality in civic life. Through internships, service opportunities and collaborations with community partners, students go beyond the classroom to tackle real-world issues that demand new approaches.

CENTER FOR AFRICAN STUDIES

The Center for African Studies is dedicated to the dissemination of knowledge and the promotion of intellectual debate about Africa on the Ohio State campus, as well as throughout the greater Columbus metropolitan area, the state of Ohio and the nation. Activities include expanding the African studies curriculum across disciplines, increasing interaction between Africanist faculty across campus, organizing lectures and conferences and conducting outreach activities with K12, business, government and civic groups.
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

BOTSWANA
Veronica Moshokgo

BURKINA FASO
Bernard Jean Gbangou

CAMEROON
Rodrigue Minya L’Akoa

ETHIOPIA
Yordanos Ashagre Awoke
Tewodros Tsegaye Ayele
Mahlet Kifle Habtemariam

THE GAMBIA
Ida Jatta

GHANA
Mavis Akom
Isaac Tettey Secorm

GUINEA
Iya Saidou Conde

KENYA
Debra Rabera Kenyanya
Lydia Munteyian Kilowua

LESOTHO
Pinki Sharon Manong
Tebello Anna Ralebitso

MALAWI
Tamiwe Kayuni

MAURITIUS
Tetraj Panray Ramchurn

NIGERIA
Damilola Olabisi Akinsulire
Christopher Oche Eche
Chiedozie Nwafor

SENEGAL/NIGER
Maimouna Baillet

SOMALIA
Bashir Ibrahim Haiban

SOUTH AFRICA
Razia Vallie

TANZANIA
Issa Ismail Mmbaga

UGANDA
Annet Aketoko Onzia

ZAMBIA
Mayoba Barbara Moono
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DAMILOLA OLABISI AKINSULIRE (NIGERIA)  
is a medical doctor with over eight years of experience in various community oriented programs and projects. She works at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital applying her research and analytical skills to effectively design and implement programs geared towards sexual health and rights of women, adolescents, and children. Damilola holds a bachelor’s degree in medicine and surgery and a master’s degree in public health from the University of Lagos. Here, her research work focused on birth preparedness and complication readiness amongst low income women in Lagos, Nigeria. She is a Sexuality Leadership Development fellow with the African Regional Sexuality Resource Centre, and a member of the West African College of Physicians. Damilola is driven by her commitment and passion for universal and equitable health services for women and adolescents and plans to promote health policies and culturally sensitive medical protocols for socially marginalized and under-served communities.

MAVIS AKOM (GHANA)  
has over nine years of experience in agricultural research. Currently, she is a senior technologist with the Counsel for Scientific and Industrial Research Project (CSIR) at the Crops Research Institute. She focuses on developing and promoting technologies that address deforestation, soil degradation, and climate change. Mavis also promotes child science education for girls by organizing role model events to motivate them to take up a career in science. She holds a master’s degree in agroforestry from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. Mavis is committed to helping farmers with soil fertility issues and declining crop yields by educating them on improved and sustainable crop management technologies. Mavis hopes to become a renowned female scientist and youth mentor and aims to improve the livelihood of farmers in her country,
YORDANOS ASHAGRE AWOKE (ETHIOPIA)

has one year of experience as a neurosurgeon. Currently, Yordanos is an assistant professor at Hawassa University Comprehensive Hospital which focuses on providing neurosurgical care for trauma patients and those with spina bifida. Yordanos has completed her specialty training in neurosurgery and her doctoral degree. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Yordanos plans to continue her work on improving the lives of patients with spina bifida by strengthening the comprehensive care unit and by establishing of a pediatric center.

TEWODROS TSEGAYE AYELE (ETHIOPIA)

is a medical doctor, consultant internist, and public health specialist with more than seven years of experience. He is currently an assistant professor at Gondar University, Ethiopia, rendering academic, research, clinical, and community services. He is also the secretary general of the Ethiopian Medical Association. In addition, he has founded a charity organization to improve the quality of education in his former high school. Tewodros has excellent communication, organizing, networking and decision making skills. Upon return from the fellowship, he will engage in innovative approaches to reaching key populations and addressing their health issues, especially HIV, hepatitis virus infections and mental health.
MAIMOUNA BAILLET (SENEGAL/NIGER)
has nearly five years of experience at the Central Bank of West African States, searching for various ways to finance the economic development of the West African Monetary Union, a union which includes eight countries. Among her responsibilities as a project developer, she worked on developing small and medium enterprise (SME) financing, evaluated the projects of the West African Development Bank, and designed new regulations to develop private equity in the region. Prior to that, she was a financial analyst in Paris for six years. Currently, Maimouna has relocated from Dakar to Abidjan as a bank supervisor. Maimouna is a founding member of an NGO providing free corrective surgery for children and adults with cleft lips and palates in Niger, Togo and Burkina Faso. Upon completion of the Mandela Fellowship, her goal is to create an NGO dedicated to women’s rights in Africa. She studied in France and holds a Master of Science in finance. She is driven by her thirst for learning from each other to find a way to develop Africa based on all the wealth and the skills available and a desire to build a world for her daughters full of tolerance, justice and equality.

IYA SAIDOU CONDE (GUINEA)
has over five years of experience in public health and community engagement programs. Currently, Iya is a national administrator of Epidemic Surveillance on Poliomyelitis and other vaccine preventable diseases at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Guinea. He was on the front line of the Ebola outbreak in Guinea from 2014 to 2016. During this time, he investigated contacts of Ebola victims, informed and educated communities, and served as a local coordinator for epidemiology and surveillance activities. Iya holds a bachelor’s degree in medicine from the University of Conakry, where he joined a local branch of the Junior Chamber International and co-directed a project on preventing female genital mutilation. He is also a founding member of the youth association that played an integral part in recently supporting the hiring of 852 Ebola responders into the Ministry of Health as government employees. Iya is driven by his commitment to building sustainable health systems that serve poor populations and hopes that one day every child will live in a clean environment and have access to adequate health services. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Iya plans to continue his work on health promotion with a focus on waste management and improved routine immunization systems.
CHRISTOPHER OCHE ECHE (NIGERIA)
is a plant pathologist and lecturer at the University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Nigeria. He is one of the few African scientists who transmits their scientific findings into forms adaptable and adoptable by poor-resource farmers in the continent. Since 2013, he and his team of inter-disciplinary scientists have been working hand-in-hand with youth and women in rural communities, helping them to improve upon their agricultural practices and adopt locally developed technologies capable of reducing pests and diseases that plague their fields. Chris hopes to hold key leadership positions in government in the near future. He believes this will avail him a wider platform to influence major decisions on agricultural development, legislation and policy.

JEAN BERNARD GBANGOU (BURKINA FASO)
is a health researcher with more than five years of experience in the health sector. He is a trained medical doctor and has completed his master’s degree in public health with a concentration in biostatistics and applied econometrics at the University of Aix-Marseille, France. He is currently conducting research on vaccines against Ebola as an investigator in a clinical trial at the Center Muraz Research Institute. Jean Bernard also teaches health informatics at the Polytechnic University of Bobo-Dioulasso. Jean Bernard is deeply committed to the fight against malaria in his community of Burkina Faso. He is a founding member and coordinator of the National Association against Malaria in the West Region of Burkina Faso. There, he focuses on the design of highly innovative strategies for malaria prevention. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Jean Bernard plans to implement an effective health information system that will detect malaria hotspots and take appropriate actions against the disease.
MAHLET KIFLE HABTEMARIAM (ETHIOPIA)
has more than seven years of experience as a public health expert and leader in the Ethiopian health system. Currently, Mahlet is the general director of the Office of the Minister where she provides oversight to the operations of various directorates. She monitors the implementation of the 2016 - 2020 Health Sector Transformation Plan and executes the minister’s flagship initiatives. During her tenure, she has established the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Prevention and Control program and has championed the first national strategic action plan for the prevention and control of NCDs. She also promotes the national cancer control plan. Mahlet is the chair of the Ethiopian National Lancet NCD Poverty Commission on the development of a national investment case for pro-poor policies and an integrated health service delivery platform for NCDs and injuries. She is a medical doctor by profession with a Master of Public Health in international health from University College Dublin. Mahlet is committed to public health service excellence and aspires to become a prominent public health leader and scholar in the African region.

BASHIR IBRAHIM HAIBAN (SOMALIA)
is very dedicated to his current work and the United Nations Population Fund’s (UNFPA) mandate to “deliver the world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, and every young person’s potential is fulfilled.” Bashir holds a bachelor’s degree in accounting and has more than five years experience working with three large humanitarian organizations in Somalia. Those organizations include Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), UN World Food Program (WFP), and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). He works in supply logistics coordinating and managing efficient deliveries of supplies to the sites. Bashir also aims to motivate and actively engage people in his work activities, especially his colleagues working in the field. His strongest attributes include his ability to inspire others, which comes from his ability to successfully perform his work given limited time in a complex environment for program delivery in Somalia.
IDA JATTA (THE GAMBIA)

has four years of experience in the public sector and has been involved in planning, budgeting, policy formulation and public sector management. Additionally, she has eight years of experience in voluntary and community service. She is the program officer of the Girls’ Agenda, a young women-led organization where she campaigns against harmful traditional practices inflicted on young girls, such as female genital mutilation and forced child marriages, and she organizes capacity building programs for victims of sexual violence and teenage mothers. Ida is vice president and trainer at Peace Ambassadors - The Gambia, a leading peace education and advocacy organization. She is also a founding member of a social enterprise called Global Hands Gambia, under the main umbrella Global Hands International UK, which has been set up to challenge global inequality by delivering education and public engagement programs and implementing international development activities. Ida holds a B.A. (Honors) in development studies and management from the University of The Gambia. Upon successful completion of the fellowship, she will use the knowledge she gains in her advocacy work to empower more girls and young people, both within and outside the public sector.

TAMIWE KAYUNI (MALAWI)

is currently the programs officer for the Center for Multiparty Democracy, where she focuses on activities aimed at strengthening youth’s participation in politics. Tamiwe holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Malawi and is passionate about working with the youth as agents of change, specifically in areas of politics, agriculture, health and education. She is an active member of Beyond You, a non-profit organization aimed to bring change through a unified effort by connecting relevant stakeholders with the willingness and capacity to make a meaningful impact in Malawi. She is driven by her passion and vision to see the youth taking an active lead in developmental agendas while actively participating in decision making and policy formulation at all levels. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, she plans to continue working with youth in politics, focusing on increasing their participation in the formulation of political party policies and taking leadership positions within their parties.
DEBRA RABER KENYANYA (KENYA)

has over five years of experience in hospital pharmacy practice in the public sector. Currently, she is a clinical pharmacist at the National Spinal Injury Referral Hospital where she works in a clinical and administrative capacity. Her roles include offering pain management service for patients, medicine optimization, and medication therapy management, and drug supply management. Debra is also involved in mentoring of student interns and is a member of various hospital committees. Debra holds a master’s degree in clinical pharmacy, international practice and policy from the University College London where she focused on policy formulation and initiation of comprehensive services offered by a hospital pharmacy practice. Debra is driven by her commitment to serve her patients and alleviate suffering caused by chronic pain. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, she plans to continue her hospital pharmacy practice while focusing on strengthening pain management service as the first of its kind in a public hospital setting.

LYDIA MUNTEYIAN KILOWUA (KENYA)

is a medical superintendent with the Isinya Health Center in the Kajiado District of Kenya, through which she supervises 16 government and 34 private health facilities. She obtained her degree in medicine and surgery from Moi University, where she was the only woman and the only person from the Masaa ethnic group in her cohort. She has experience with a wide variety of medical disciplines and a record of success in improving the quality of management and of care at Insinya. She works closely with the International ENCO Foundation, serving on its advisory board for her community’s Mbirikani Community Health Care Program, which strives to improve health care but also empower people to expand their choices in life through agricultural, educational and youth mentorship initiatives that target early marriage and FGM. Lydia’s hopes her participation in the Mandela Washington Fellowship will strengthen her leadership in ENCO, to believe and act on Mandela's dream for Africa in the community setting of Mbirikani.
RODRIGUE L’AKOA MINYA (CAMEROON)
believes that Cameroon needs to create a trained pool of African leaders in public management to become an emergent country in the year 2035. He is the Ndelele Health District Medical Officer where he performs human resources duties, manages the implementation of national health policies, and oversees central African refugee camps. He frequently organizes mobile clinics to reach distant patients. Rodrigue has five years of experience in public health policies. He holds a medical doctorate from the faculty of medicine and biomedical sciences from the University of Yaounde, and an epidemiology certificate from the Cameroon Field Epidemiology training program. Upon completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship he plans to implement health insurance in his district.

PINKI SHARON MANONG (LESOTHO)
is a social worker with over three years of work experience in the Ministry of Social Development in Lesotho. She is also a member of the Centre for Social Development in Africa at the University of Johannesburg. She has a keen interest in issues of community development and is driven by making a difference in the lives of the poor. She is also passionate about humanitarian work supporting youth, women and children. Because of her interest in education, she co-founded a non-profit organization, Her Chance To Be Foundation. This foundation focuses on improving the lives of girls in Lesotho who are threatened by poverty and illiteracy through the high school scholarships, thereby giving them a chance for education. Pinki holds a B.A. degree in social work, an honors degree in Development Studies, and is currently pursuing a master’s degree at the University of Johannesburg, where she is researching whether education breaks the cycle of poverty. Upon completion of Mandela Washington Fellowship, Pinki plans to grow Her Chance To Be Foundation to impact more lives, and also develop more opportunities for youth as a way to combat unemployment.
ISSA ISMAIL MMBAGA (TANZANIA)

has nine years of experience as a health administrator at the Ministry of Health in Tanzania. He is responsible for the management, coordination, health planning, budgeting, training, supervision, monitoring and evaluation of health projects and advising. Recently he coordinated continuing health systems professional development at the ministry level. He has a postgraduate specialization in health system management and pursued an education in international public health to deepen his knowledge in domestic and global health system management. Upon completion of the fellowship he wishes to use the experience and leadership skills acquired to introduce entrepreneurship and innovation concepts in managing public health challenges.

MAYOBA BARBARA MOONO (ZAMBIA)

has over five years experience in the agriculture and research sector, specifically focusing on livestock production and development. Currently, Mayoba is a District Livestock Production Officer at the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, where she focuses on supervising and coordinating the implementation of livestock production and extension programs for the district. Mayoba holds a Master of Science in research methods from the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology where she focused on research methodologies within the livestock sector. She also holds a bachelor’s degree in agricultural sciences from the University of Zambia where she majored in animal sciences. Mayoba is driven by her commitment to contributing to sustainable livestock production and livestock research, which she does through ensuring effective dissemination of information and appropriate technologies to farmers and extension service providers. Upon completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Mayoba plans to continue her work in livestock production and research with a focus on encouraging youths in her district to take up diversified agriculture activities especially livestock rearing to economically empower themselves.
VERONICA MOSHOKGO (BOTSWANA)

is a medical officer with over two years of experience in primary health care. Upon completion of her undergraduate studies in medicine at Trinidad and Tobago, she decided to work with communities at the grassroots level to better understand the inequalities in health care distribution. She works with the Infectious Diseases Control Center which gives her a platform to educate people living with HIV/AIDS on risk reduction and acceptance. Moshokgo completed a post graduate diploma in HIV/AIDS management at the University of Stellenbosch. The program motivated her to participate in the FHI 360 LINKAGES Key Population Health Access Campaign through which she specifically brought health care services to men and women sex workers. Veronica is the co-founder and vice-chairperson of Bound By Love, a charity organization which provides long-term sponsorship and mentorship for underprivileged students. The organization has reached over 4,000 students in communities in Botswana through interactive motivational talks, group mentoring, academic counseling and career guidance. Veronica wants to focus on clinical research and health care policy making, analysis, monitoring and evaluation to decentralize and redevelop her country’s health care sector.

CHIEDOZIE NWAFOR (NIGERIA)

has over four years of experience in the health sector. His early career focused on medical laboratory diagnostics. Chiedozie now develops health systems in response to some of the biggest global health concerns. He serves as the Community Health Systems manager for the World Economic Forum’s Abuja Global Shaper’s Hub while running his own Social Enterprise; the First Aid First Nigeria Initiative (FAFNI). He also develops programs for health based NGOs in Nigeria. Chiedozie holds a bachelor’s degree in biological sciences from the University of Abuja. In the past two years, he’s written scholarly research articles focused on health sustainability and the challenges of medical research published in international journals. He is passionate about leadership and social transformation. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Chiedozie plans to continue his work in health systems development and social innovation. He’s driving the narrative that healthcare should be made available to the people, rather than wait for people to come to healthcare.
ANNET AKETOKO ONZIA (UGANDA)  
is a doctor with great passion for sexual and reproductive health and rights of young adults and marginalized members of society. At the Infectious Diseases Institute in Uganda, she is the head of the sexual and reproductive health department and runs specialized clinics for adolescents, pregnant women and marginalized members of society to whom she provides quality services while conducting research. Annet holds a bachelor’s degree in medicine and surgery, a post graduate diploma in tropical medicine and hygiene, and an international certificate in sexual reproductive health research. With over three years of experience, she envisions becoming a public health specialist and advocate, carrying out research that transforms policy in Africa. Her dream is to see an Africa where everyone receives effective sexual health services, irrespective of race, religion, and sexual orientation, for an HIV-free Africa. A great believer in voluntary work, she is an active member of her local rotary club. Upon returning to her home country, Annet plans to continue her work as a cutting edge clinical care provider and researcher at the clinic. This will help best understand the challenges and ultimately find solutions to effective sexual and reproductive health and rights in Africa.

TEBELLO ANNA RALEBITSO (LESOTHO)  
is a gender specialist and researcher, with interest in social policy development. She holds a master’s degree in gender studies and has over 12 years of experience working with the Government of Lesotho and civil society organizations. She is based in Johannesburg, South Africa where she works with the Graca Machel Trust in their economic advancement program for African women. She coordinates networks of women in business, academia and agribusiness across 10 countries. Tebello is a seasoned grant and project manager with experience in policy development, strategy, research and network building. Her research interests are in social policy, African feminism and women’s empowerment. She explores emerging change in these areas, particularly for Basotho women. Upon her return from the Fellowship, Tebello intends to focus on launching her online research and information hub in Lesotho. Outside of her professional life, Tebello is an aspiring writer and a regular contributor to a leading women’s magazine in Lesotho.
TETRAJ PANRAY RAMCHURN (MAURITIUS)
is a surgical oncologist and is presently working as a specialist surgeon with the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, Mauritius. He has drafted clinical practice guidelines for colorectal cancers and is a strong proponent of tumor board discussions in cancer management. During his MWF program, Tetraj’s aim will be to learn how to initiate private-public partnership in order to make the existing free public healthcare system in Mauritius a more dynamic and efficient program. Ultimately, his vision is to establish a state-of-the-art cancer center which can serve as a model to other Sub-Saharan countries where cancer disease is prevalent.

ISAAC TETTEY SECORM (GHANA)
has over six years of experience in medicine. Currently, Isaac is the acting medical superintendent of the Worawora Government Hospital, where he performs both clinical and administrative functions. He is a lead facilitator for quality improvement activities in the Volta Region, founded and chairs the Town Health Planning Committee meetings, and has lobbied for several donations and adoption of wards to improve support and quality of healthcare. Isaac holds master’s degrees in medicine and surgery and just completed a master’s degree of public health program. Isaac is highly motivated and committed to challenge the health sector towards quality improvement by enhancing leadership at various levels. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Isaac plans to start leadership clubs in senior high schools in the Biakoye, Jasikan and Kadjebi districts as a way to instill good leadership at an early age to culminate in quality leadership in Ghana.
RAZIA VALLIE (SOUTH AFRICA)

is a dynamic allied health professional working as the assistant director for the Provincial Department of Health’s HIV/AIDS/STI and TB directorate. She is currently completing her master’s degree in public health through which she is exploring global health systems and the compounding effect of the social determinants of health on HIV/AIDS in South Africa. Razia is also involved in community development efforts to build public libraries and expand access to food in low-income areas. She looks forward to strengthening her policy making and implementing skills, connecting with other emerging leaders and using her platform to influence public health systems in South Africa.

OHIO STATE TEAM

Esther E. Gottlieb | Academic Director, Mandela Washington Fellowship

Esther is an international education specialist, who serves as senior advisor for the Office of International Affairs at Ohio State, working on implementing education plans and programs and evaluating them. Her research focuses on education, economic and social development examining discursive practices of reforms and policies (most recently those of ‘world-class’ and ‘quality education’). She holds a PhD in comparative and international education from the University of Pittsburgh.

Robert T. Greenbaum | Co- Academic Director, Mandela Washington Fellowship

Robert is a professor and associate dean for Curriculum at the John Glenn College of Public Affairs and also serves as an associate director at Ohio State’s Center for Urban and Regional Analysis. His research focuses on economic resilience and urban and regional economic development, analyzing the interactions of policy, the characteristics of a local population and the structure of industry and economic activity. He received a PhD in public policy and management from the Heinz College at Carnegie Mellon University.

Rahwa Hassen | Program Assistant, Mandela Washington Fellowship

Rahwa recently received her master’s degree in public health from Ohio State with a specialization in global health. She is a cum laude graduate of Ohio State with a Bachelor of Arts in international development. Rahwa’s interests include international development, refugee resettlement and mental health. After the institute, Rahwa will pursue her Fulbright fellowship to work with mental health care
in the Gondar region of Ethiopia.

**Rudy Hightower | Academic Instructor, Mandela Washington Fellowship**
Rudy is a retired U.S. Navy intelligence officer and the president/founder of Ohio State’s Policy, Modeling and Simulation Group. His research focuses on Black Sea regional security, democratization, reconstruction and stabilization operations. At the John Glenn College of Public Affairs, he teaches public administration leadership courses, as well as Policy Analytics, Modeling, and Simulation (PAMS) workshops. He is the owner of a computer modeling, simulation and visualization company.

**Laura Joseph | Administrative Director, Mandela Washington Fellowship**
Laura has been the assistant director of the Center for African Studies since 2003. She has over a decade’s worth of life and development work experience in Africa, particularly in Benin, Kenya, Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia. She holds a master’s degree in economics, social change and development from Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies and a master’s degree in public health from Ohio State.

**Fungisai Musoni | Program Assistant, Mandela Washington Fellowship**
Fungisai is a second year doctoral student in African American and African studies. Fungisai is originally from Zimbabwe, Gutu. Her research interest focuses on Sub-Saharan women’s issues. Professionally, she has worked as a history high school teacher both in Africa and the United States. Currently, she teaches an undergraduate course at Ohio State.

**Chineze Okpalaoka | Outreach Coordinator, Mandela Washington Fellowship**
Chineze holds a Bachelor of Arts in international studies from Ohio State and upon graduation moved to South Africa as a Fulbright teaching assistant, where she facilitated creative arts, literacy and leadership programs. This fall, she will be pursuing her Master of Science in education, culture and society at the University of Pennsylvania. She plans to research the ways formal and non-institutional systems of education reinforce identities for young African and African-American girls.

**Kelly Robyn Wilson | Program Assistant, Mandela Washington Fellowship**
Kelly has lived and worked in West and East African countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Niger, Benin, Tanzania, Rwanda and Kenya as a consultant of international agricultural development. Her work focuses on food security, with specializations of integrated livestock management and