**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. It is a program of the U.S. government and is supported in its implementation by IREX. The Ohio State University is a sub-grantee of IREX and is supporting the U.S.-based academic program of the Fellowship. Contact: Kayleigh Gallagher at gallagher.438@osu.edu.

Jack Abuli, Kenya
Jackson Abuli has worked in the public sector for the last 10 years in various capacities. He champions the cause of farming communities in Kenya. He is the former county agribusiness development officer in local county government. Jackson is keen that agribusiness plays a key role in improving the livelihoods of communities. He currently works as an agronomist with OCP Africa in Kenya, helping to increase farm productivity and transforming farming through appropriate and sustainable practices. Jackson holds a degree in Agriculture and a master’s in Integrated Soil Fertility Management from the University of Nairobi and Kenyatta University respectively. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Jackson plans to utilize his experience and networks to form partnerships with key stakeholders in the public and private sectors and civil societies. He would like to see lives transformed by secure communities enjoying prosperity in an environmentally safe and sustainable manner.

Mensah Adika, Niger
Yaaovi Mensah Adika is a humanitarian field worker from Niger with over six years of experience in the United Nations. As senior budget and programming associate at the World Food Program, he is working to end hunger and extreme poverty by 2030. He has proven experience in relief and emergency operations, including the recent West Africa Ebola-virus disease response. He holds the vision that Africa can emerge and develop through its in-house resources for better prosperity. Outside his professional work, Mensah plays a key role as youth leader within his community, working to empower the future generation of leaders. Upon completion of the Mandela Fellowship, Mensah intends to invest more in other young Africans who are working to find solutions and best practices to tackle the cyclical food crises and hunger in the Sahel region. He also aims to become a valuable asset for both the United Nations and his community.

Camus Adoligbe, Benin
Camus M. Adoligbe, after the completion of his university degree in Benin, left to earn a PhD in China. He is currently working as an assistant professor at the University of Abomey-Calavi with expertise in Animal Agriculture. His daily tasks include teaching, research work, designing and monitoring, research project management and evaluation. He also volunteers in community development to improve livelihoods, and quality and access to education for children. Camus has strong desires to expand his activities to his entire country and even neighboring countries. He plans to establish a non-government organization to use as a platform for implementation, developing partnerships and raising funds from individuals, corporate sponsors, donors and the government. From his attendance at the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Camus expects to build solid networks, learn from the experiences of his peers, and absorb skills that will be beneficial for the realization of his vision.

Ghislaine Glitho ep Alinsato, Benin
Ghislaine Glitho Alinsato is a physician and sociologist with a master’s degree in public health and a certificate in political advocacy for health. She has more than 10 years in clinical care, and the management and monitoring of health projects. As team leader for maternal, child and reproductive health for CARE International in Benin and Togo, she currently coordinates different projects, ensures programmatic excellence and manages partnerships. She has worked for the National Program, International League, Cooperation for Academic and Scientific Research (CORUS), and international NGOs such as Medical Care Development International, the Benin Red Cross and CARE International. Ghislaine has contributed to several proposals and written publications. She has participated in international meetings and led health research. Ghislaine’s goal is to work to lead a change in the health services to address the lack of investment in equipment, infrastructure and human resources.

Cosmos Anweh, Nigeria
Cosmos Anweh has over two years of experience in agriculture, particularly agricultural economics and extension. Currently, Cosmos is a graduate research assistant at the Institute of Food Security, University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Nigeria, where he is a member of the strategy and governance program responsible for improving the food economy and national food policy instability. He is also the inaugural class president of his secondary school alma mater, where members contribute towards development by providing educational items and aid for financially challenged, gifted students. Cosmos holds a bachelor’s degree in agricultural economics and extension from the University of Agriculture, Makurdi, where he focused on the sustainability of local food systems. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Cosmos plans to adopt several pre-tertiary institutions providing mentorship and youth participatory orientation on sustainable agricultural development practice, creating a robust network of agricultural revolutionists to improve the lives of our communities.

Frederick Danso, Ghana
Frederick Kwasi Danso has been working with the Department of Food and Agriculture for the past seven years. His duties include providing good agricultural practices for farmers, and organizing and monitoring demonstrations on improved crop varieties to encourage the adoption of these early and high-yielding varieties. This he does through the formation and revamping of existing farmers’ groups. He also assists Ivorean refugees living in his community in the production of various crops and the rearing of animals through his partnership with ADRA/UNHCR Ghana. Upon realizing the problem associated with post-harvest losses, Danso undertook a master of philosophy in postharvest management from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana. He intends to train more farmers and farmers’ groups on post-harvest management to reduce these losses and increase the income levels of farmers in order to break the cycle of chronic poverty.
Abdoulaye Diallo, Guinea
Abdoulaye Diallo is a reproductive-health and HIV-program management specialist with six years of experience in the nonprofit sector. He is also secretary in a Rotary Club. He holds a bachelor’s degree in medicine and a master’s in biostatistics from the University of Conakry, Guinea. Currently, Abdoulaye is the monitoring, evaluation, and research advisor at Jhpiego, an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University under the USAID-funded Maternal and Child Survival Project, where he became involved in the planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and documentation of project activities. Previously, Abdoulaye worked with Jhpiego in northern Nigeria on a maternal and child health program. He has also supported the Guinea Health Management Information System in the revision of national health indicators and data collection tools. Upon completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Abdoulaye intends to continue his work with Jhpiego to implement the USAID bilateral Health Service Delivery project in seven out of eight regions of Guinea.

Enque Endeshaw, Ethiopia
Enque Deresse Endeshaw has worked as a medical doctor for over five years in different capacities, mostly in mental health. Enque did her specialization in psychiatry at Addis Ababa University. Currently, she is working at Lebeza Psychiatry Consultation PLC, where her main focus is organizing training and treatment for Ethiopian migrant workers living in the Middle East and refugees. Enque has worked as the clinical head at a substance rehabilitation center, which was the first of its kind in Ethiopia. In her tenure as a clinical head, she trained and supervised other staff members. She was involved in the management aspect of the center, in addition to carrying out clinical work. To give back to society, she was involved in an outreach program that provided free mental health care to patients. Enque plans to apply and share the experiences she has acquired with both governmental and non-governmental institutions.

Isabella Epiu, Uganda
Isabella Epiu is a NIH Global Health Fellow from the University of California Global Health Institute. She is a medical doctor and has been passionate about reducing maternal and infant mortality in Africa. Through her multi-national research, she identified bottlenecks to provisions of safe anesthesia in the East African community. Isabella is the founder of Health Solutions International that sources new approaches to emerging global health challenges, and is currently working on a campaign to end obstetric fistula. She is a consultant registrar at the Aga Khan University in Nairobi, Kenya. She holds a master of medicine in anesthesiology and critical care from Makerere University in Uganda, and has training in management of health from the University of Washington. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Isabella plans to implement several global health solutions, continue advocating for quality improvement in health care, and mentoring young women in Africa.

Kiné Faye, Senegal
Fatou Faye has been an agronomic engineer for five years working with the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). She coordinates the milk value chain program in the Ferlo (Senegal) area, which promotes the access of the breeders to solar energy. She supports the development of rural entrepreneurship among women livestock breeders and the creation of small companies for them in order to have stable incomes. Fatou is an active member of the district council and participates in waste management. Once she has completed the Mandela Washington Fellowship, she wants to become a decision-maker in her country and contribute to the sustainable development of rural communities.

Carmen Hayarimana, Burundi
Carmen Hayarimana has over seven years' experience in various fields in the community-development sector, especially in fighting against HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence at the Young Women Christian Association Burundi. Currently at the end of her studies in General Medicine, Carmen is focusing on health development. Along with a team of young doctors, she works towards reducing maternal and fetal deaths by promoting insurance services and ultrasound scan programs to pregnant women. As an activities coordinator, she creates, develops, and implements the organization’s events. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Carmen plans to continue her work in health development, focusing especially on reducing maternal mortality in the next two years by looking for more partners and reinforcing community activities.

Ehigie Imarhagbe, Nigeria
Ehigie Imarhagbe practices as a conservative dentist at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital, where he actively serves in both clinical and administrative roles. He is a graduate of the University of Benin and a fellow of the West Africa College of Surgeons. He strives to deliver quality health care with empathy and professionalism, in a manner consistent with excellence and proficiency and in keeping with global best practices while learning, exploiting research frontiers, and contributing to the global body of knowledge. In addition to his institutionalized clinical practice, Ehigie is involved in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of free health care programs in the rural and semi-urban regions of Southern Nigeria, as well as in personal and institutional capacity development projects. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Ehigie plans to pioneer personal and institutional excellence in the Nigerian health sector with emphasis on building efficient and effective systems.

BB Ismail, Nigeria
Balarabe Ismail is an academic with expertise in food safety. He is the developer of ‘Baobab Coffee’. His major professional interest is on ensuring food safety from farm to fork through the collective efforts of government, producers, and consumers. This has become necessary due to the rising cases of foodborne-related diseases in developing countries like Nigeria, leading to high morbidity and mortality. Balarabe holds a master’s degree in food safety and quality management from the University of Greenwich, United Kindom, and membership to four professional groups. He has five years of work experience at the university and in two food processing companies. Currently, he is working on a consumer attitude tracker with an emphasis on food safety. Upon completion of his fellowship, he plans to establish cost-effective ways to raise public awareness on food safety so that cases of foodborne diseases could be reduced to an acceptable level.
Hakimu Msomba, Tanzania
Bahati Hakimu has four years of experience in the fields of agriculture and agribusiness. Bahati is a regulatory services officer on the Sugar Board of Tanzania, regulating the sugar industry by conducting sugar evaluation from production to final consumer, recommending measures to be taken where challenges emerge, and implementing approved regulatory services. He focuses on establishing small- to medium-scale sugarcane projects in the value chain. The goal is to enhance sugar production in order to improve the livelihoods of poor farmers in the rural areas, creating employment and multiplier effects to social responsibilities like education, health, water, environmental conservation and roads. Bahati holds a bachelor’s degree in general agriculture from Sokoine University of Agriculture, focusing on Agriculture and Agribusiness. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, he is planning to focus on small-scale sugar projects by including youth and women in the sugarcane value chain.

Beauty Mulenga, Zambia
Beauty Mulenga is a social advocate over five years of experience. Currently lecturing in human resource management at the Zambia Institute of Business Studies and Industrial Practice, she is a champion for increased access to vocational education and training for women and girls, as well as an advocate for equal employment opportunities for all. Beauty is a national executive official of the National Unions of Technical Education Lecturers and Allied Workers, representing employees in collective bargaining, policy formulation, and the management of technical vocational education and training (TVET) institutions in Zambia. She holds a graduate diploma in human resource management and certificates in TVET policy and gender mainstreaming in national development. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, she plans to continue her current work and to engage key players in training for agriculture entrepreneurship and gender mainstreaming.

Grace Mwashigadi, Kenya
Grace Mwashigadi is a research clinician at KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Program, Kilifi. She has over six years experience in key population studies focusing on acute HIV infection detection, community engagement and programs extending HIV prevention and care to very vulnerable and marginalized populations. Outside clinical work, Grace volunteers as a member of the board of directors of an NGO, Local Empowerment for Good Governance (LENGGO), whose main mandate is to enhance good governance and resource utilization. She is a charter member of the Mombasa Campus Lions Club, which offers charity to orphaned children. Through Undugu Mentorship Initiative she mentors secondary-school students in life skills, careers, positive attitude and risky behaviors to help them build confidence. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, she aspires to become an effective educator and researcher in the prevention of diseases.

Sulani Nyimbili, Zambia
Sulani Nyimbili has over six years of experience in the veterinary service and livestock development sector. He is currently a fisheries and livestock coordinator in the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Chinsali. In this role, he is responsible for coordinating veterinary, fisheries and livestock development programs and extension services to rural smallholder farmers. He is also section head of the Provincial Epidemiology and Information Center where he focuses on data analysis, information management and disease surveillance. He is also involved in youth capacity building in business and entrepreneurship. Sulani holds a degree in veterinary medicine and zootechnics from the Central University of Las Villas, Cuba, and a master’s degree in one health analytical epidemiology from the University of Zambia. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, he plans to continue his work improving the efficiency of disease surveillance and information systems for enhanced decision making in government and among farming communities.

Tania Katanga, Democratic Republic of the Congo
Tania Katanga has over eight years of experience in various fields in the development sector and finance in particular. She currently works as an investment officer at PTA Bank, where she focuses on originating, structuring and executing corporate and project finance transactions focusing on infrastructure and manufacturing sectors. Tania also provides mentorship and financial support to kids living in underserved communities through the Jubilee Scholarship fund to help them successfully complete their secondary education in Kenya. Tania holds a bachelor’s of science in economics from the Protestant University of Congo. Her aspirations after completing the Washington Fellowship are many, but her utmost goal is to further promote financial inclusion and sustainable growth of businesses in her region.

Lady Kgawane-Modise has six years of rehabilitation expertise, having qualified as an occupational therapist from Cardiff University in the United Kingdom. She currently works as a case management rehabilitation supervisor for the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund of Botswana. She manages those injured in road traffic accidents within the borders of Botswana (southern region) facilitating access to health care services and their medical undertaking. Her role also includes hospital, home, school and/ or work visits to ensure those injured reach their optimal independence, and eventually return to their activities of daily living, independence and work. Her interests are health care management, disability management, and public health policy. Lady is pursuing her master’s in business administration with a special interest in health care management. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, she plans to continue advocating for rights of those living with disabilities and lobby for Botswana’s first rehabilitation hospital.
James Kumwenda, Malawi
James Kumwenda is a medical doctor. Over the past year, James has served as the clinician in charge of Monkey Bay Community Hospital, where as the only medical doctor he practiced medicine, taught and provided leadership. Currently, James works for the Ministry of Health as the medical officer for Mangochi District. He is the clinical head of the district hospital and overseas clinical services across 40 health facilities. He also mentors medical students and gives motivational talks in universities and secondary schools. James holds a medical degree from the University of Malawi. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, James plans to continue his work as a transformational leader in health care and to develop leaders for Malawi.

Emmanuel Odama, Uganda
Emmanuel Odama is an agricultural soil scientist by training, and currently works for the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) of Uganda. Serving currently as a research officer at Abi Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute under NARO, Emmanuel has over seven years of experience in agricultural research, development and administration. Part of his work involves training farmers and extension workers on soil and water conservation, crop agronomy and post-harvest handling, as well as heading the institute’s natural resource management program. He also volunteers as an associate pastor in his local church, where he conducts weekly Bible-study classes. Emmanuel holds a master’s degree in soil science from Makerere University, Kampala. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, he plans to promote sustainable and climate-smart agricultural production in his community, with a focus on small-scale farmers who derive their livelihood solely from agriculture.

Hija Raphael, Tanzania
Hija Raphael has over four years of experience in the field of investment in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs). He is a senior research and planning officer working for the Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA), which is a government institution responsible for attracting both foreign and domestic direct investment in Tanzania through the SEZ program. Hija is responsible for preparing strategic plans, undertaking the monitoring and evaluation of projects, undertaking research and collecting information for publication. Hija currently works with the joint working team responsible for the development of Bagamoyo SEZ project, which is being implemented as a public-private partnership. The project involves the development of a seaport envisaged to be the largest in Africa. He holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in economics. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Hija intends to utilize the skills and knowledge gained to support small and medium enterprises growth in Tanzania.

Anastacia Tomson, South Africa
Anastacia Tomson is a medical doctor, author and activist with a focus on queer and transgender rights. She completed her medical degree at the University of Pretoria in 2009, and has six years of experience as a clinician in the public and private sector. Currently, Anastacia conducts workshops and seminars that provide sensitization and competency training on LGBTQIA+ issues, targeting healthcare workers and mainstream society. She also produces training materials covering transgender health. Anastacia is a founder of the Professional Alliance Combating Transphobia, and is a Sexual and Reproductive Justice Coalition steering committee member. She has experience in the media, with numerous radio, TV and magazine appearances under her belt. In addition, Anastacia maintains an active social media presence and runs a blog. Her autobiography, Always Anastacia, releases in May 2016. After completing her fellowship, Anastacia will continue passionately fighting for transgender and LGBTQIA rights in South Africa and the region.

Coli Tfwala, Swaziland
Colisile Tfwala is a humanitarian who works for the Municipal Council of Mbabane as a senior manager of the local economic-development section. Her job entails creating an enabling environment in the city to ensure job creation, poverty alleviation, and sustainable development. She has worked in economic development for six years. Colisile holds an honor's degree in small business development, and is currently pursuing a master of commerce degree in entrepreneurship from the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa. She serves as a board member of the Innovators Association of Swaziland, is the secretary of the Eagles Wings Ministries Business Forum, and mentors young girls. She has in the past volunteered extensively in various community projects. Her future plans involve running businesses and using the income to establish an NGO that will assist orphaned children and youth in business and provide small grants to destitute women in business.

Ubka Ubaka, Nigeria
Chukwuemeka Ubaka has over nine years of university teaching and six years of mentoring students in their careers. Currently, Chukwuemeka is a lecturer/coordinator of the Excel Club for pharmacy students at the University of Nigeria, where he teaches graduating students practice ethics, management logistics and professionalism, and helps them make career decisions when they leave school. He also helps in the running of the faculty pharmacy, which he singlehandedly opened last year. He also volunteers annually as a medical contact for a national underprivileged women's conference. Chukwuemeka holds both master's and doctorate degrees in clinical pharmacy and pharmacy practice, where he focused on different methodologies for improving the academic and clinical performances of pharmacy students in the country. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Chukwuemeka plans to operate a nationwide online platform that teaches and mentors medical and allied graduates in the ethical obligations to provide quality health care.