

Agenda

Join a Stevens Initiative Program March 19, 2020

12:00pm Opening Remarks

Christine Shiau, Managing Director, The Stevens Initiative, The Aspen Institute, [@StevensInit](#)

12:10pm Panel Discussion

Ayca Ariyork, Director of Global Partnerships and Communication, Soliya, [@Soliya](#)
Corinne Counsell, Associate Manager of Programs and Institutional Giving, Global Nomads Group, [@global_nomads](#)

Lindsey Powers, Senior Program Officer, IREX, [@IREXintl](#)

Christine Shiau, Managing Director, The Stevens Initiative, The Aspen Institute, [@StevensInit](#)

Christina Thomas, Divisional Vice President, World Learning Youth Exchange Team, [@WorldLearning](#)

12:40pm Participant Q&A

Panelist Bios

Ayca Ariyork is the Director for Global Partnerships and Communication at Soliya. In her role, she identifies and cultivates new relationships with public and private stake holders, primarily with universities and colleges, to increase access to cross-cultural education through technology and facilitate social dialogue across difference. Previously, at the United Nations Association of the USA (now the UN Foundation), she devised policy research and advocacy campaigns in favor of reform and US leadership that were before the UN Security Council. She started her career as a young scholar at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a public educational foundation dedicated to informed debate on US foreign policy in the Middle East. Ayca's commentary appeared on Pie News and Thrive Global among other media including the Financial Times, the New York Times and BBC News. She has an MA from School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University.



Corinne Counsell is Associate Manager of Programs & Institutional Giving at Global Nomads Group (GNG) where she works cross-departmentally to manage the impact evaluation of GNG's youth virtual exchange programs on the outcomes of empathy, global awareness, action-orientation, and 21st Century Skills. She also manages GNG's institutional grants, reporting, proposal writing, and funder cultivation. Corinne received a Bachelor's degree in French and Linguistics from Georgetown University, served as a Fulbright Grantee in Germany, and holds a Master's in International Educational Development from Teachers College, Columbia University. Corinne believes that engaging youth in dialogue through virtual spaces has limitless potential in creating a more empathetic world.

Lindsey Powers is a Senior Program Officer providing administrative and technical support for the Global Solutions Sustainability Challenge and Iraq higher education development programs. Lindsey is a part of IREX's team supporting educators in Iraq. Prior to joining IREX, Lindsey co-founded an international education reform program in Jordan and the West Bank, focused on providing professional development to public and private school educators and administrators. The nonprofit program worked with Queen Rania Al Abdullah's education initiative, QRTA and Madrasati to bring state-of-art- development to local education communities. Lindsey co-managed the nonprofit program's logistics while also designing training curriculum and facilitating workshops on best teaching practices. Prior to working in the Middle East, Lindsey taught first grade for six years in Virginia and Indonesia. She holds an MA in education from George Mason University and a BS in education from James Madison University.

Christine Shiau is Managing Director of the Stevens Initiative where she oversees a wide array of functions related to program infrastructure, grants, strategy, communications, and operations, ensuring effective management throughout the program. Christine joined the Initiative following a career in the public and private sectors specializing in finance, accounting, compliance, and grants management. Preceding her current role, Christine managed several multi-million dollar grant programs at Cook County, Illinois. Christine's portfolio included the Department of Homeland Security's second largest urban security grant program specializing in public safety and emergency management. Prior to her public sector career, Christine worked as an auditor with Ernst and Young and an accountant with Enterprise Holdings. She came to Washington, DC from Los Angeles, where she worked for Kaiser Permanente managing federal grants through the Department of Health and Human Services. Christine graduated from the University of Illinois-Chicago with a Bachelor of Science in accounting and a minor in marketing. She is a Master of Business Administration candidate at the University of Maryland.

Christina Thomas is the Divisional Vice President for Youth Exchanges at World Learning. Christina oversees the World Learning's multimillion-dollar US and international youth exchange portfolio consisting of World Learning's flagship program, the Experiment in International Living. The Exchange portfolio serves over 1000 high school age US and International students and adult educators and hires up to 150 program leaders annually. Programs focus on experiential learning, global issues, and youth leadership. Christina also serves as the Board President of the Federation EIL providing member support in strategic planning, capacity building and quality assurance.

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The Stevens Initiative is an international effort to build global competence for young people in the United States and the Middle East and North Africa by growing and enhancing the field of virtual exchange: online, international, and collaborative learning.