

2022 Stevens Initiative Alumni Fellowship

Bios

Facilitators

Kyle Kastler | Senior Program Associate



Kyle Kastler oversees alumni engagement for participants and awardees of Stevens Initiative programs and contributes to the Initiative's research and knowledge sharing work. In his role, Kyle focuses on providing support to alumni to leverage their virtual exchange experience into future opportunities and sharing resources about virtual exchange with the wider field.

Previously, he contributed to the field of international exchange by working on in-person youth exchange programs funded by the U.S. Department of State. Kyle joins the Initiative after completing a Master's Program in International Education Policy at the University of Maryland, College Park where he researched and wrote about practitioner perceptions of virtual exchange. Kyle, originally from Kansas, is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, a Critical Language Scholarship Recipient, and holds a B.A. in Spanish and Political Science from Missouri Southern State University.

Kholoud Khalifa | Consultant



Kholoud Khalifa is a consultant at the Stevens Initiative where she works to build content for the Fellowship and facilitates the training focused on various topics including virtual exchange. She is also a lecturer at the University of Applied Science in Vienna, previously at the American University in Cairo. In addition to this, she has been a long time fellow, senior facilitator and coach at Soliya. Previously, Kholoud has worked for the

United Nations as a communications officer and advocated for refugees in both Egypt and Austria. She has a B.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication from the American University in Cairo, and an M.A. in Conflict Resolution from King's College London.

Rawan Nasir | Program Coordinator



Rawan Nasir is a Program Coordinator at the Stevens Initiative, where she works to support both the alumni and research portfolios. She joins the team with previous experience working with international exchange students and helping them navigate their transition to studying in the United States. In addition, she has worked with young adults to prepare them for their undergraduate studies by guiding them through the college application process. She holds a B.A. in Global Affairs with a double concentration in the MENA region and Media, Communication, and Culture, as well as a Minor in the Arabic language from George Mason University.

Fellows

Shamma Aldhaheeri | United Arab Emirates

Virtual Exchange: Soliya's Connect Global

Year of Participation: 2020



Shamma Aldhaheeri is a student at New York University Abu Dhabi, and Zayed University. Shamma is passionate about connecting, educating, and helping her community grow. She is an alumna of the Global Connect Program implemented by Soliya, and several global study opportunities have offered her the chance to find her place internationally while fostering relationships with individuals from all over the world, and learning and growing from their differences. Shamma is from the United Arab Emirates and has an interest in different sustainability methods, literature, as well as community growth and development.

Maryam Alfakhrey | Iraq

Virtual Exchange: IREX's Global Solutions Sustainability Challenge

Year of Participation: 2021



Maryam Alfakhrey is an architecture student at the University of Mosul in Iraq. In addition to her passion in her speciality, she's an environmental activist and helps to spread awareness about sustainable cities and communities by participating in lectures and events. Recently, Maryam has participated in several culture-exchange programs, with the hopes to show the beauty and culture of her city, Mosul. She believes this is a great way to spark a larger interest in the city. She also enjoys all kinds of arts, music, and languages. She's an alumna of the spring 2021 cohort of the Global Solutions Sustainability Challenge implemented by IREX.

Abdelkhalik Aljuneidi | West Bank

Virtual Exchange: World Learning's NextGen Coders Network

Year of Participation: 2020



Abdelkhalik Aljuneidi is a software engineer at Takalam L.T.D and as their first hire, he focuses on building software solutions for Takalam's online platform. He graduated with honors from Palestine Polytechnic University with a degree in Computer Engineering in 2021. Before that, he obtained a certificate in computer and data science from MIT in 2019. That same year he attended the exclusive Google inside-look in Munich, Germany and led the E-Bazaar Project as a finalist in the Hult prize regionals in Tunisia. Abdelkhalik also completed internships at Bloom EMEA, Localized, Olika consulting and ASAL Technologies. At his university, he founded and led the Google Developer Student Club in 2020 and was also IEEE PPU's Public relations manager and PPU's first Microsoft student ambassador.

Whitney Brooks | U.S.

Virtual Exchange: William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan's Business & Culture

Year of Participation: 2021



Whitney Brooks is a student at the University of Michigan where she is earning her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art and Design. During this time, she contributed to the Zell Lurie Institute at the Ross School of Business as a Marketing and Media Intern supporting their long-term brand identity goal by creating digital graphic assets. She is an alumna of the Business & Culture (B&C) program implemented by the William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan. Whitney is from Detroit, Michigan in the United States and has an interest in product/industrial design that encourages thoughtful decisions.

Amal El Haddadi | Morocco

Virtual Exchange: Soliya's Connect Global

Year of Participation: 2021



Amal El Haddadi is an MA student of English Literature & History of Ideas at Abdelmalek Essaadi University, and a Projects Coordinator at Y-PEER Morocco where she implements social projects and works on enhancing the skills & knowledge of youth and young adults. Prior to this she worked as an English teacher, facilitated English exchange sessions and contributed to implementing social projects in local associations. She is an alumna of the Connect Program and Global Circles implemented by Soliya. Amal is from Tetouan, Morocco and has an interest in cultural studies, hybrid identities, intercultural communication, social change, voice-over, pencil drawing, and photography.

Ariel Gravino | U.S.

Virtual Exchange: EWH's Virtual Engineering Innovation & Cultural Exchange

Year of Participation: 2021



Ariel Gravino is a student at Arizona State University where she is currently studying Biomedical Engineering. Prior to this, she was a Petty Officer First Class in the United States Navy as a Hospital Corpsman. She is an alumna of the Virtual Engineering, Innovation, and Cultural Exchange implemented by Engineering World Health. Ariel is originally from North Carolina in the United States and has an interest in healthcare and biomedical devices.

Mohamed Hassan | Egypt

Virtual Exchange: William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan's M²GATE

Year of Participation: 2018



Mohamed Hassan is a senior undergraduate student at the American University in Cairo, where he is majoring in Engineering with minors in Economics and Sociology. He is currently an Associate Coach at The Center for Learning and Teaching at his university, where he works on designing and facilitating professional development workshops to expose students to design thinking. Mohamed is an alumnus of the MENA-Michigan Initiative for Global Action Through Entrepreneurship (M²GATE) program, implemented by the William Davidson Institute. Mohamed is from Egypt and has a passion for outdoor 'nature-based' activities, adventure sports, personal development, volunteering, traveling, watching movies, and reading novels of nonfiction, culture, and romance.

Mennatullah Mustafa | Egypt

Virtual Exchange: CDIP's How to Succeed as an Innovator

Year of Participation: 2020



Mennatullah Mustafa Sakr is currently studying to be a doctor at Kasr El- Ainy Medical School in Cairo. Prior to this, she studied at the Alexandria STEM school. She is an alumna of the How to Succeed as an Innovator virtual exchange program implemented by Citizen Diplomacy International. Mennatullah is from El-Beheira, Egypt, and has an interest in psychology, philosophy, innovative medicine, and inclusive leadership.

“Being inspired and empowered by fellows will make me better at collaborations, discussions, and team activities which is a great skill for a leader.” Mennatullah Mustafa

Adem Oumeddour | Algeria

Virtual Exchange: World Learning's The Experiment Digital

Year of Participation: 2020



Adem Oumeddour is a second year student at the Higher School of Management and Digital Economy and brand designer at Geometric Algeria where he oversees the creation and the development of different brands for different clients. Prior to this role, he worked as a freelance graphic designer where he had the opportunity to work with different national brands and small businesses. He is an alumnus of the Experiment Digital implemented by World Learning and the Algerian Youth Leadership Program implemented by the American Embassy in Algeria. Adem is from the city of Algiers, Algeria and has an interest in art, history and sports.

Cassandra Pantel | U.S.

Virtual Exchange: IREX's Global Solutions Sustainability Challenge

Year of Participation: 2018



Cassandra Pantel is the Assistant Restaurant & Beverage Manager for The Hotel at Kirkwood Center where she is in charge of the day-to-day operations of running the Maikka Lobby Bar. The Hotel at Kirkwood is a teaching hotel associated with Kirkwood Community College. Part of her role involves teaching hospitality students about the industry both in a classroom setting as well as on the job style training. She is an alumnus of the Global Solutions Sustainability Challenge virtual exchange program implemented by IREX.

Cassandra is from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, USA and has an interest in distance running, cocktail history, and making art.

Lily Payton | U.S.

Virtual Exchange: African Middle East Leadership Project's Global Allyship Curriculum

Year of Participation: 2020



Lily Payton is an Associate at the Centre For Public Impact (CPI) where she aids the implementation of a human-centered design curriculum to an international cohort of cities hoping to solve a pressing issue in their local community. Previously, she participated in the Global Allyship Program implemented by the African Middle Eastern Leadership Project, where she had the ability to meet and ideate with peers from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, and Syria. Prior to her current role at CPI, Lily graduated from McGill University in Montréal, Québec with a double major in International Development and Political Science.

Lily is originally from Potomac, Maryland and has professional interests spanning government innovation, intercultural communication, Arctic geopolitics, and the increasing influence of big tech.

Hassan Saeid | Iraq

Virtual Exchange: IREX's Global Solutions Sustainability Challenge

Year of Participation: 2020



Hasan Ibrahim is a Training Assistant at the Smithsonian Institute, where he assists in the implementation of INGO-funded projects and develops curricula for the trainings that are conducted within the region. Prior to this he majored in Chemical Engineering, and ranked 4th in his batch. He's an alumnus of the Global Solutions Sustainability Program implemented by IREX and the Iraqi Youth Leaders Exchange Program. Hasan is from Erbil, a city in the KRG Region of Iraq and seeks to create safe spaces for the queer community and improve upon environmental procedures in the industrial field within his own community.

“A leader is always learning, and thus participating in this program will help me learn from other members, brainstorm together, and exchange ideas on how to tackle issues on a community and global scale.” Hassan Saeid

Emily Thomason | U.S.

Virtual Exchange: IREX's Global Solutions Sustainability Challenge

Year of Participation: 2021



Emily Thomason is a recent graduate of the Borough of Manhattan Community College where she received an Associate of Liberal Arts degree. As a college student, she interned with the Policy and Strategy Unit of the Western Cape Government of South Africa and participated in many on-campus activities. Moving forward, she intends to pursue her bachelor's degree in International Relations with a focus on Middle Eastern Studies. She is an alumna of the Global Solutions Sustainability Challenge implemented by IREX, where she facilitated dialogue between youth in the United States and Jordan as the cohort's Cross-Cultural Relationship Manager. Emily is from Colorado, though she has also called Minnesota, Texas, Vermont, and New York home. Her interests include foreign affairs, diplomacy, creative writing, and travel.

“I [will] use this fellowship as a space in which to further develop my networking abilities, conflict resolution skills, public speaking, organizational management, and diplomacy.” Emily Thomason

Nouha Ziade | Lebanon

Virtual Exchange: William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan's Business & Culture
Year of Participation: 2020



Nouha Ziade is an elementary teacher at the American Creativity Academy in Kuwait, where she teaches homeroom subjects for grade 3. Prior to this, she worked as an ambassador for Localized World in Lebanon. She was previously part of the Alumni Review Committee for the Stevens Initiative 2020 Virtual Exchange Grant Competition. Nouha has a dual degree in Business Administration and Elementary Education with a Teaching Diploma from the American University of Beirut and is currently studying for a bachelor's degree in Data Science at the Lebanese University. Nouha is an alumna of the Business & Culture: A Virtual Practicum virtual exchange program, implemented by the University of Michigan. She is from Tripoli, Lebanon and has interests in Traveling, Culture, Film and Archery.

About the Stevens Initiative Alumni Fellowship

The Stevens Initiative Alumni Fellowship is an immersive learning opportunity for young professionals who have completed a Stevens Initiative-funded virtual exchange. Through this fellowship, alumni will develop personally and professionally as global leaders, intercultural communicators, and cross-cultural collaborators while forming long-lasting relationships with their peers and the Initiative.

2022 Alumni Fellows Virtual Exchange Programs

Each fellow is an alumni of a Stevens Initiative-funded virtual exchange. Learn more about the programs that these alumni participated in [here](#).



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