Learn together today. Lead together tomorrow.

The Stevens Initiative is an international movement committed to advocating for and investing in opportunities for young people that prepare them to prosper in a highly interconnected world. The Stevens Initiative, a program of the Aspen Institute, was created in 2015.

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2023 Highlights

- **$10M**: Pledged
- **49**: Active Grants
- **12,000**: Youth Participants
- **90**: Virtual Exchange Leaders Trained
The Stevens Initiative cannot do this work alone. Through the support of the U.S. Department of State, the Bezos Family Foundation, and the governments of Morocco and the United Arab Emirates, we have made leaps and bounds in our dedication to growing the field of virtual exchange throughout 2023.

Programs offered

- **1,111** hours of virtual exchange activities

- **630** facilitators prepared to lead virtual exchange

- **85%** of participants recommend their virtual exchange

- **280** new institutions and partners adopted our virtual exchange programs

LOOKING AHEAD

The momentum generated in 2023 to strengthen our strategic partner network will carry forth in years ahead. Investments being made now and in the future reflect a revitalized strategy of connecting partners at every stage of virtual exchange—from recruitment, to program design, and implementation, continually generating increased demand and creating a resilient ecosystem of support that can meet it.

Forging a steady pipeline of partners will contribute to our ultimate goal of serving the most important people in the field: youth participants.
Our alumni network has grown to more than 30,000 young people who are leveraging the skills and friendships developed during their virtual exchange to impact their communities around the world. Here’s how:

We closed out our inaugural cohort of the Stevens Initiative Alumni Fellowship and welcomed a second cohort in early 2023. Across both groups, 37 Fellows embarked on a yearlong intensive program aimed at shaping exceptional virtual exchange alumni into even more dynamic leaders. Fellows developed projects that address real-world challenges, benefitting over 200 people around the world — demonstrating that the impact of our programming extends beyond the youth we directly reach and flows into their communities.

Learn about the 2022 Fellows’ community PROJECTS.

“The Fellowship reinvigorated [my] desire to actually live and work abroad. Each session was a jolt of energy and was unmatched compared to my daily life. I am [now] more empathetic toward others, knowing everyone has a life and journey to live that I may not understand.”

— Lily Payton, 2022 Fellow

“I’m excited] to build connections and network with people across communities and cultures, develop my skills learned from my virtual program, and practice them in order to be a good leader and benefit my community.”

— Lana Bahr, 2023 Fellow
The Stevens Initiative is a program of the Aspen Institute and is supported by the Bezos Family Foundation and the governments of Morocco and the United Arab Emirates. The J. Christopher Stevens Virtual Exchange Initiative is a U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs program administered by the Aspen Institute.