



JUNE 17, 2017 - JULY 28, 2017

The summer of 2017 was a very special one for Bridgewater State University (BSU). For six weeks, from mid June to the end of July, BSU was the only Massachusetts institution to have the great pleasure of welcoming and hosting 25 emerging civic and public leaders from Africa. The Mandela Washington Fellows, as they are officially known, came to BSU to take part in the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). Launched in 2010 by President Barack Obama, YALI was created to support young African leaders as they spur growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security across the continent.

The BSU Fellows represented 16 African nations. Through the extraordinary efforts of the entire university community and with the support of numerous local and regional partners, the university delivered an outstanding Public Management Institute that included academic course work, leadership training, cultural experiences and networking opportunities. The overall Fellowship experience culminated in August with the 25 BSU fellows joining 975 of their peers hosted at 37 other colleges and universities from across the United States at a summit in Washington, D.C.

This picture album contains just some of the many highlights of the BSU Institute. We hope that it rekindles memories of a very special summer. As the fellows work to promote innovation and positive change in their organizations, institutions and communities across Africa, we remember them as dedicated, caring, bright and talented individuals who touched our lives and reinforced for all of us the importance of being engaged in the world.

Wendy Haynes, Ph.D.
BSU Institute Director
Mandela Washington Fellowship

BSU Mandela Washington Fellows

Angola

Maria Rosa Celeste
Segunda Dias

Benin

Karamatou Eytayo Sanny

Cabo Verde

Maria Celeste Monteiro Fortes

Cameroon

Laura Anyijap Njuzy
epse Morfaw

Ethiopia

Biruh Gemedá Gage
Endris Mohammed Ahmed
Areaya Hewan Solomon

Ghana

Fareeda Serwaa Brobbey
Enoch Owusu Sekyere

Guinea Bissau

Filinto Omar Martins Salla

Liberia

Jimmy Langford Williams

Madagascar

Andry Rasoanindrainy
Rindra Ny Aina Rabearivony

Malawi

Temwanani Karen Phiri
Isaac Mwepa
Chisomo Grace Kaufulu

Mali

Bady Hamma

Nigeria

Emmanuel Baba Aduku

Sao Tome and Principe

Quina Lima Fernandes
Sequeira Bragança

Sierra Leone

Cheryl Eugenia Angela Sembie

South Africa

Tshepo Alfred Mahlare
Loyiso Makapela

Uganda

Jacquiline Amongin
Kalule Flavia Nabagabe

Zambia

Tika Ngwale

Itinerary

June 18	Sail Boston
June 19	BSU Orientation
June 20	Welcome Dinner
June 22	Ice Cream Social
June 22	Neighbor's Dinner
June 25	Brockton Rox
June 26	Mini Golf Tournament
June 29	Edward M. Kennedy Institute
July 4	Independence Day Parade
July 10	Father Bill's and Mainspring
July 10	Clambake - Marilee and Carlton Hunt's Home
July 18	Nelson Mandela Day at Hall of Flags - Massachusetts State House, Boston
July 28	Farewell Dinner
July 30 to August 3	YALI Summit - Washington D.C.

JUNE
18

Sail Boston





JUNE
19

BSU Orientation







BSU University News & Media

June 19, 2017

Bridgewater State University hosts 25 young leaders from Africa

Twenty-five of Africa's brightest emerging public-management leaders have arrived on campus and have embarked on a six-week academic and leadership institute.

This is the second consecutive year Bridgewater State University has been selected as a partner with the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, which is the flagship program of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). The program empowers leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa through academic coursework, leadership training, mentoring and networking opportunities.

Meet BSU's Mandela fellows.

This year, 1,000 fellows will participate in 40 institutes offered by 38 colleges and universities across the United States. Approximately 64,000 applications for the program were received from all 46 Sub-Saharan nations.

The fellowship, which began in 2014, has engaged 2,000 young leaders – women, men and individuals with disabilities – from both rural and urban areas in every country in Sub-Saharan Africa. Each participating institution has an area of specialty: Bridgewater's is public management. Other schools focus on business & entrepreneurship or civic leadership.

These emerging leaders, ages 25–35, have established records of accomplishment in promoting innovation and positive change in their organizations, institutions, communities and countries. Following their academic residency, the fellows will visit Washington, D.C., to participate in the Mandela Washington Fellowship Summit.

During the multi-day event, fellows take part in networking and panel discussions with each other and U.S. leaders from the public, private and nonprofit sectors.

The Public Management Institute at Bridgewater, under the leadership of Dr. Wendy Haynes, interim dean of the College of Graduate Studies and former coordinator of BSU's master of public administration program, is tailored to fellows who work, or aspire to work, in all levels of government, regional or international organizations, or other publicly minded groups and think tanks.

“We are thrilled to welcome 25 Young African Leaders to our campus again this summer,” Dr. Haynes said. “The 2016 institute engaged the entire campus community and partners throughout the commonwealth in a rich array of cultural, service-learning and academic activities. It was a mutual learning experience and we are fortunate to now include the 2016 fellows in the BSU extended family. Summer 2017 promises to be equally wonderful and rewarding.”

Bridgewater's academic team of six leaders, under the direction of Dr. Michael Kryzanek, professor emeritus of political science, will address a particular topic during each week of the program as follows:

Meet the BSU team involved in the program.

Morning classroom sessions will also include meetings with practitioners while afternoons will feature site visits associated with an interest in that week's topic as well as a variety of community service and team-building opportunities. Each fellow has a peer collaborator who works in the region and will act as a mentor.

Bridgewater's 2016 fellows represented 15 African nations. Highlights of their stay at the university included participating in the town's Fourth of July parade, community service work at Fr. Bill's and Mainspring as well as the Greater Boston Food Bank, a visit to the Old Colony Correctional Facility as part of the criminal justice component of the program, participation in Nelson Mandela Day in the Hall of Flags at the Massachusetts State House in addition to visits to Newport, Boston and Providence, as well as to other higher education institutions in the commonwealth.

Upon returning to their home countries, the fellows continue to build the skills they have developed during their time in the United States through support from U.S. embassies, USAID and affiliated partners through regional conferences, professional practicum experiences and mentoring opportunities.

Bridgewater is the only institution in Massachusetts hosting the fellows this summer. Others in New England are Dartmouth College and the University of Maine at Orono.

Working closely with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational Affairs and its implementing partner, IREX, host institutions are charged with designing academic programs that will challenge, inspire and empower these inspiring young leaders from Africa.

The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders is a program of the U.S. government and is supported in its implementation by IREX. For more information about the Mandela Washington Fellowship, visit youngafricanleaders.state.gov or join the conversation using the hashtags #YALI2017 or #MandelaFellows

■Eva T. Gaffney, G'01

JUNE
20

Welcome Dinner







Campus Welcomes Mandela Fellows

Isaac Mwepa appeared to be a happy man, as he introduced himself to the dozens of people crowded into the Dunn Conference Center for Tuesday night's Mandela Washington Fellowship welcome dinner.

"I am very excited to be here," the Malawi resident said. Back home he is the chairman of the Chitipa District Council, but here he is one of 25 fellows who will spend the next six weeks taking part of BSU's MWF Institute. "Everyone has been so friendly," he said.

This is the second year BSU has been selected to partner with the Mandela Fellowship for Young African Leaders. More than 64,000 African residents applied to be part of this year's program, but only 1,000 were selected to come to the United States.

"I'm convinced we got the best 25," said Dr. Wendy Haynes, director of the MWF Institute, and interim dean of the College of Graduate Studies. "This is an absolutely awesome group with great stories to share."

President Frederick W. Clark Jr. told the fellows how excited the extended Bridgewater community was to welcome them to campus, and that he hoped their participation in the institute paid dividends once they returned to their homelands.

"I encourage you to do your best to change the world, starting with your local community," he said.

The president reminded the fellows of something Horace Mann said, “Education is the great equalizer.”

“Education does matter, both here and in your home country,” the president said.

Special remarks were provided by Uganda’s Cyrus Kawalya, a 2014 Mandela fellow who attended the six-week program at the University of California, Berkeley. After becoming successful in his home country in the music and entertainment industries, he made a decision.

“I realized it’s not about making the money we make but it’s about how we transform our communities,” he said. This spurred his interest in his community, leading to his applying to take part in the Mandela Fellowship program.

Mr. Kawalya fondly recalled his time as a fellow, and urged the members of BSU’s cohort to make the most of their time here, before returning to Africa to bring about positive change.

“This is our moment, we have to take it up and make a difference and make a sacrifice,” he said. “There is no way out of it. Future generations will want to know what we did for Africa.”

■ John Winters, G’11

JUNE
22

Ice Cream Social





JUNE
22

Neighbor's Dinner





JUNE
25

Brockton Rox





JUNE
26

Mini Golf Tournament







The Enterprise

June 26, 2017

Bridgewater State University hosts 25 young leaders from Africa

More than 64,000 residents in Africa applied to be a part of this year's Mandela Washington Fellowship, but only 1,000 were chosen to actually come to the United States.

And 25 of those people will be right in Bridgewater.

For the second consecutive year, Bridgewater State University was selected to host 25 of Africa's emerging young leaders for a six week academic and leadership institute known as the Mandela Washington Fellowship.

BSU is the only institution in Massachusetts to host the Fellows this summer, Eva Gaffney, the director of marketing and media at BSU, said.

Throughout the six-week stay in Bridgewater, the group will be meeting officials, touring institutions and attending events.

Gaffney said the Fellows, who are emerging public management leaders in Africa, will focus on learning about and observing public management, criminal justice, education and transportation issues.

The Fellows, who range from 25 to 35-years-old, arrived June 16 and have already visited Brockton, met Bridgewater locals and attended a Brockton Rox game.

They will be touring places within Bridgewater such as the Old Colony Correction Complex and will also take time to go beyond the town line such as to Brockton Superior Court, the Whaling Museum and Boston

“They do a lot of community service too,” Gaffney said.

Gaffney said the fellows will be volunteering for a military veterans’ homeless shelter Military Veterans Home, the Greater Boston Food Bank and My Brother’s Keeper.

The Fellowship began in 2014 and has had over 2,000 young leaders, from rural and urban areas in every Sub-Saharan African country.

The Fellowship is a flagship program of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) that aims to “empower young people through academic coursework, leadership training, and networking,” according to the institutes website.

The 25 Fellows will be in Bridgewater until July 28.

“Upon returning to their home countries, Fellows continue to build the skills they have developed during their time in the United States,” as stated on the Fellowship website.

■ Sara Cline

JUNE
29

Edward M. Kennedy Institute





JULY
4

Independence Day Parade





JULY
10

Father Bill's and Mainspring





JULY
10

Clambake - Marilee and Carlton Hunt's House





JULY
18

Nelson Mandela Day at Hall of Flags - Massachusetts State House, Boston







University News & Media

July 20, 2017

Mandela Fellows Celebrate the Man Himself

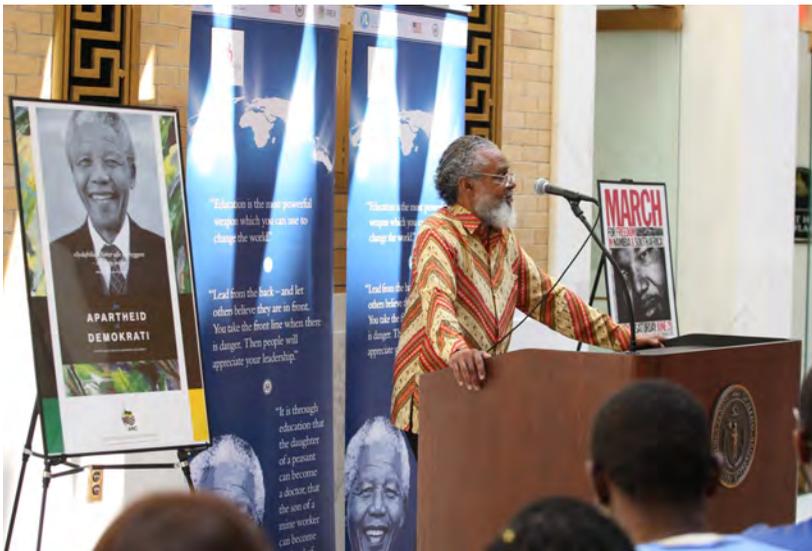
Surrounded by Apartheid-era posters and Africa's next generation of leaders inside the Massachusetts Statehouse's Great Hall of Flags, Gov. Charlie Baker's voice seemed to falter at times during an emotional Nelson Mandela International Day address to Bridgewater State University's Mandela Washington Fellows.

"I truthfully have trouble coming up with a better role model and a better person whose life and legacy we should emulate than Nelson Mandela's," said the first-term governor, who has a poster of the former South African president in his office. "I think it's terrific that today we celebrate not just who he was, but what he stands for and what he represents."

And that, of course, includes the transformational power of education.

Tuesday, all 25 of Bridgewater's fellows attended the statehouse's fourth annual Mandela Day celebration, on what would have been the late South African leader's 99th birthday. The event included speeches from other elected officials, dignitaries and two of the fellows themselves. Each addressed the standing-room only crowd with a banner behind them full of Mandela's wisdom, including perhaps his most-oft repeated quote: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

The Mandela Washington Fellowship aims to do just that. The program at the center of the Young African Leaders Initiative, which provides promising young minds the opportunity to spend six weeks at an American university for an immersive leadership summit. Only 1,000 were chosen from a pool of 64,000 applicants; Bridgewater was one of just 38 institutions from across the United States selected to host one of the Sub-Saharan African contingents.



State Rep. Byron Rushing served as the emcee for the Mandela Day event, reminding the crowd that the anti-Apartheid movement began decades before President Mandela's eventual release from prison in 1990.

“When this work began in late 1960s and early 1970s, virtually no one believed it would be successful. I say that over and over again when I speak to young people to let them know how hard you must work for justice,” he said. “No matter how crazy the idea is, or how difficult the position you are advocating seems to other people, you can never give up because you never know when all of the pieces will come together.”

The contingent from BSU was joined by Bridgewater's Interim Assistant Provost for Global Engagement Dr. Wendy Haynes, Professor Emeritus Dr. Michael Kryzanek, Global Studies Academic Director Dr. Wing Kai-To and Assistant Director of International Relations Harold Tavares.

“I am a living testament of your African dream; I vow to continue your great work and never let you down,” Loyiso Makapela, one of two South Africans from BSU’s Mandela Washington Fellowship group, said. She spoke this pledge directly to Mr. Mandela’s image on a poster next to the podium before turning to the crowd for her official remarks. “I thank Bridgewater State and its incredible leadership for doing this work that you have done. We will never forget it. And to the fellows, our work is not done. The best is yet to come. Let us do it together.”

Tshepo Alfred Mahlare next joined Ms. Makapela at the microphone and praised Mr. Mandela as a principled teacher who calmed an entire people’s outrage.

“We had been humiliated, oppressed, hated and undignified; we were angry and at a crossroads. Nelson Mandela spoke to us and taught us to forgive, he taught us to laugh and he taught us to speak,” said Mr. Mahlare. “He believed in the unity and the concept that people — no matter how diverse — should have the priority of coexistence.”

South African Consul General Thulisile Mathula Nkosi was also on hand, and mentioned that he’d recently left an Africa youth forum at the United Nations concerned by the next generation’s perception of its own continent.

“Everywhere you go in Africa, you hear about corruption — but you are the ones who have the energy to push against that system and that culture,” Mr. Nkosi told the fellows. “You come from a very rich continent. We have so many things, but the only thing we do not have is the young people who will go out of Africa, get the knowledge and experience, and then go back to make it happen.”



Other speakers included Abigail Horgan of the U.S. State Department, South Africa Partners Executive Director JudyAnn Bigby, State Senators Jason Lewis and Marc Pacheco; the latter’s constituency includes the town of Bridgewater.

Sen. Lewis mentioned that one of the great regrets of his life was not attending Mr. Mandela’s speech at the hatch shell on the Esplanade in Boston just month after he was released from prison.

That visit to Boston was especially meaningful for the late South African president, as two of his daughters and six of his grandchildren lived in the city during his incarceration.

“Together we have to turned the wheel of history in favor of liberty,” Mr. Mandela told an estimated crowd of 250,000 gathered by the Charles River on June 23, 1990. “When one day our history is rewritten, the pioneering role of Massachusetts will shine out like a diamond.”

■ Charlie Peters



University News & Media

July 20, 2017

Tough Lessons

Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education Carlos Santiago addressed the Mandela Washington fellows who are spending six weeks on campus. He told them that, frankly, he wished he had better news about the state of education, both locally and nationwide.

“If you think we have all the answers...it’s not exactly the case. It’s a very, very difficult world,” he said.

Indeed, the commissioner said the challenges facing Massachusetts higher education are manifold — specifically for state institutions, where nearly 90 percent of graduates not only stay local but are also desperately needed for the commonwealth’s workforce.

Today’s students “are the future of a state that relies on brains,” he said.

The challenge is a demographic dip that has especially affected the Northeast. The result is a reduction in the number of young people reaching college age began. The trend began years ago, and is expected to continue for another decade. Yet the need for an educated citizenry, primarily in the form of college and university graduates, is growing. (For instance, computer programming graduates today each have their choice of an average of 17 jobs.)

The flip side of this, exacerbating the problem, is an aging workforce here in Massachusetts. Twenty-five percent of current workers in the state are expected to retire within the next decade.

“All this puts a pressure on our institutions to produce the mind power to keep this engine moving forward,” Commissioner Santiago said. “We are in a crisis... At the end of the day it means that our public institutions are more important than ever.”

He outlined three areas of focus for his office:

1. Bringing new populations into higher education, specifically Latino and African-American students
2. Providing the services necessary to ensure these new students succeed
3. Closing achievement gaps between these formerly underserved populations and traditional students.

“What I’m concerned about are students who don’t have resources and don’t have opportunities,” the commissioner said.

Complicating matters, the commissioner said, is the fact that despite the fact that Massachusetts is a relatively wealthy state, the amount of student aid provided ranks the commonwealth at the bottom, ahead of only Arkansas.

Asked what the best part of his job is, the commissioner spoke about seeing up close student success.

“The most satisfaction I have is in the success of the students we help,” he said. “There’s a great deal of pride in watching those students march across the platform.”

Commissioner Santiago stayed after his lecture, fielding many questions from the Mandela fellows.

■John Winters, G’11

JULY
28

Farewell Dinner





JULY
30
AUGUST
3

YALI Summit – Washington D.C.







University News & Media

August 4, 2017

Farewell to Class of '17 Mandela Washington Fellows

Community partners and members of the campus community gathered to bid 25 Mandela Washington Fellows a fond farewell, as their six-weeks on campus came to a close.

The fellows were greeted at the farewell dinner by a standing ovation in the Rondileau Campus Center Ballroom by more than a hundred invited guests that included many who'd worked and volunteered during the Institute in Public Management program attended by the visitors. The audience included peer collaborators, governmental and nonprofit leaders who hosted site visits, residents of the town, and faculty and staff of the university.

"We have so enjoyed these six weeks," said Dr. Wendy Haynes, director of the institute. "This evening is bittersweet, actually. We have fallen in love with our fellows – we don't want them to leave. We were asked to impart knowledge to the fellows, but it has been a reciprocal experience."

President Frederick W. Clark Jr. thanked the International Research and Exchanges Board, Inc. for selecting Bridgewater State University – the only university in Massachusetts chosen for the program this year – to host one of the institutes offered by more than 40 higher education institutions across the United States. This year, more than a thousand young African leaders partook in the program.

Those who'd spent six weeks at BSU kept a hectic schedule.

“From the governor to legislators to community partners to nonprofits to sports teams ... it’s exhausting to look at what you’ve done – Bridgewater to Boston to New York to Washington ... thank you to all of our partners who helped you with that experience,” the president said.

State Sen. Marc R. Pacheco (D-Plymouth-Bristol), told the fellows they were “the talk of the statehouse” during Mandela Day observances on July 18. “When something different happens at the statehouse, there’s a buzz that goes on,” he said. “Just in its second year, that level of recognition bestowed on this program has a lot to do with the quality of faculty and staff at this university. Everyone at the statehouse knows that. It was a special honor for us. We had the opportunity to have the future leaders of Africa, and of the world, at this institute”

Fellow Andry Rasoanindrainy of Madagascar was selected by his peers to present a videotaped version of his “ignite speech” at the farewell event during which he urged all fellows to become “the servant-leaders our continent needs so desperately.” Each fellow is required by the program to write and videorecord such a speech, encapsulating what they’ve learned. Mr. Rasoanindrainy’s speech will also be presented in Washington, D.C.

Chisomo Kaufulu of Malawi was selected to present reflections from the fellows regarding their time spent at Bridgewater State University. “Your warm-heartedness, your willingness to serve, your mission statement – ‘not to be ministered unto but to minister’ – is a true reflection of who you are – your willingness to serve,” she told the campus community.

“Six weeks ago, we came into this great institution of learning ... we had an open heart, we gave ourselves up to learning, to moments of reflection. We shared strategies and best practices and we got inspired. We were inspired because this fellowship reminded us of the power within us as individuals to make change.”

Each fellow was presented with a certificate of completion, which also made them honorary alumni of Bridgewater.

“You’ve seen America ... you’ve seen our (BSU) people, our values the way we work with people, and our students and that’s the window I hope you remember looking through and I hope you find that was the best window of America,” President Clark told the fellows. “You’ve really touched our hearts. You are now a part of us. When you’re an alumna or an alumnus of Bridgewater State you’re a part of our family and families stay together to help each other to succeed. Your dreams are powerful. You are powerful. And you will fulfill them.”

Eugene J. Durgin Jr., chairman of the university’s Board of Trustees, said at graduation ceremonies each spring, he implores Bridgewater graduates to come back. “That would be very difficult for you, but I always urge our graduates to think about coming back if only in a daydream. I would encourage you to think about us in your daydreams from time to time – the information you were provided, the friends that you’ve made – I think that daydream will elevate your day.”

Two special performances by the fellows included Flavia Nabagabe of Uganda, who read her poem, “I Refuse to Say Goodbye.” She was followed by Loyiso Makapela of South Africa, who was joined by Fareeda Serwaa Brobbey of Ghana, Maria Rosa Celeste Segunda Dias of Angola, Enoch Owusu Sekyere of Ghana, Jimmy Langford Williams of Liberia and Mr. Rasoanindrainy to sing “My Afrikan Dream,” a song from a South African artist that, Loyiso said, resonates in both the continent of Africa and in the United States.

In my Afrikan Dream, there's a new tomorrow

My Afrikan Dream is a dream that we can follow

And though it would seem my hope's an illusion

My Afrikan Dream is an end to the confusion

The fellows then headed off on the next leg of their trip to the United States – a week in Washington, D.C.

■Eva T. Gaffney, G'01



wickedlocal.com

August 12, 2017

Training the Next Generation of African Leaders

I recently returned from Washington where 1,000 African leaders participated in a summit conference arranged by the State Department.

Bridgewater State University is one of 38 public and private schools chosen to host 25 Mandela Washington Fellows who are part of the Young African Leaders Initiative. This year the State Department received 64,000 applications for 1,000 slots.

Starting in 2010 with direction and support from the Obama White House, YALI has become the premier African program of the United States as it seeks to bring mid-career professionals to campuses around the country for a six week training program in entrepreneurship, civic engagement or public management. Bridgewater State offered the public management institute.

The objective of the program is to train and encourage the next generation of African leaders, and in the process lay the groundwork for democratic development, economic prosperity, good governance, and social change. By targeting African leaders in their 30s the United States is betting on a generational shift away from the current status of many countries on the continent, which is marked by cruel authoritarianism, dismal socio-economic conditions, rampant corruption and gross inequalities.

The YALI program comes at a time when Africa is beginning to emerge from a long period of stagnation and civil war. Of the 53 countries that make up sub-Saharan Africa at least half are showing signs of revitalization and reform. In countries such as Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, South Africa, Madagascar, Cabo Verde and Nigeria there is evidence of modest but sustained growth, weak but stable democracies, and growing investment interest from foreign multi-nationals.

China in particular has entered the African continent with full force as it pours billions into major infrastructure projects, development loans, and technical assistance. The United States has been late to the changing dynamics of sub-Saharan Africa as it downplays its interest and turns its attention elsewhere. The involvement of China in Africa is not lost on the Mandela Fellows who often ask, “Where is the United States?”

Senator Chris Coons, Democrat from Delaware and the chief proponent of YALI and Africa, spoke at the Summit and gave a passionate argument for expanded United States involvement in Africa. Coons argued that the United States is missing an opportunity to expand trade, invest in start-ups, and partner with the leaders of this new generation to transform the African continent. For example, Kenya, which is dubbed “the Silicon Savannah” by many in the tech industry, is now considered the next big thing in software development. Unfortunately, the United States has been slow to move into the Kenyan market.

The United States has failed to recognize the potential in Africa in large part because the picture of the continent is filled with images of disease, refugees, starvation, fraudulent elections, and devastating wars. This image of Africa is not to be denied, but there is another Africa that is reflected in the hopes and dreams of the Mandela Fellows as they see their responsibility to return to their countries and make a difference. At the Summit story after story of Fellows making a difference and changing the face of their country were everywhere. Our own 25 Fellows pledged to return and intensify their efforts to deal with public corruption, enhance grassroots democratization, form non-profits committed to gender equality and use social media to rally the youth of their country for change.

It is disappointing to note that the Young African Leaders Initiative that brings the Mandela Washington Fellows to this country is under intense budget scrutiny by the Trump administration. A modest \$ 19 million budget line item is in jeopardy. The State Department has scraped together funds for next year, although the number of Fellows will be cut from 1000 to 750. It is fiscal 2019 that will be a real challenge for the program.

The Fellows that Bridgewater State hosted were determined to live up to the model of servant leadership advocated by Nelson Mandela, fully aware of the obstacles that stood in their way. But as with Mandela, the Fellows know that any obstacle can be overcome with determination and a positive outlook. It would be wise for the Trump administration to recognize that a modest outlay of budget resources can have an enormous impact on the African continent and our relationship with the next generation of leaders.

■ Michael Kryzanek,
Assistant to the President for
University Priorities and Global Engagement
at Bridgewater State University



**MANDELA WASHINGTON
FELLOWSHIP**
FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS

