Since its launch in 2015, the U.S. Department of State’s Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI) Fellowship Program empowers emerging entrepreneurs from the Western Hemisphere to enable the full economic potential of the region’s citizens. YLAI promotes U.S. business models, increases trade, encourages job creation, and builds lasting and sustainable networks of young entrepreneurs and business and social leaders across Latin America, the Caribbean, Canada, and the United States.

**CELEBRATING**

**1,008 YLAI FELLOWS**

48% WOMEN

**AND 50,000+ YLAI NETWORK MEMBERS**

WITH ACCESS TO **19 ONLINE COURSES**, **75+ INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEOS**, AND **400+ INFORMATIONAL BLOG POSTS** FROM **37 COUNTRIES**

YLAI has connected professional fellows with **873 U.S. HOST BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS 34 STATES**

**THE YLAI FELLOWSHIP HAS AWARDED**

- 90+ IMPACT AND INNOVATION GRANTS
- 135 OUTBOUND EXCHANGE GRANTS
- 140 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

TO FOSTER COLLABORATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING BETWEEN U.S. PARTNER AND ALUMNI NETWORKS AND ALUMNI LOCAL ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES

A YEAR AFTER RETURNING FROM THEIR YLAI FELLOWSHIPS

- 84% ATTRACTED NEW RESOURCES
- 94% FELT PREPARED TO FIND FUNDING
- 98% APPLIED WHAT THEY LEARNED IN THE U.S.

OVERALL, ALUMNI ARE A PART OF AN ACTIVE NETWORK SUPPORTED BY U.S. EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES

Learn more and join the YLAI Network at ylai.state.gov
THE THREE PILLARS OF YLAI

The YLAI Fellowship Program is an annual exchange program for 280 young business and social entrepreneurs from 37 countries across Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada, who are matched with businesses and organizations across the United States. In addition to entrepreneurial leadership training, fellows build new skills, share best practices, and forge commercial ties. YLAI alumni also have access to Outbound Exchanges, small grants, resources and events, as well as to exclusive opportunities offered by the U.S. Department of State on alumni.state.gov.

The YLAI Network is a virtual community of 50,000+ entrepreneurship-minded members from across the Americas. Network members engage with curated leadership and business development resources that highlight innovative U.S. models, policy-focused campaigns, and networking opportunities.

U.S. Embassies and Consulates organize activities with YLAI professional fellows, network members, and diverse young leaders to support entrepreneurial ecosystems. YLAI fellows and network members are key partners for engaging with and inspiring young people across the hemisphere.

“I feel like my mentor is a walking book of solutions. I am extremely satisfied with my mentor, she has given me some great ideas and helped me manage my time. I couldn’t have asked for better!”
- 2021 Fellow, St. Maarten

“YLAI has helped me build confidence, see the value in my services, and charge appropriately.”
- 2018 Fellow, Barbados

“YLAI brought me friends, business partners, clients, and a family. It changed my life.”
- 2016 Fellow, Brazil

“This experience far exceeded my expectations. My fellow and I have enjoyed a wonderful collaborative experience.
-2021 Host, San Diego

“IT WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR US TO COLLABORATE, TEACH, AND LEARN FROM AN ENTREPRENEUR FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY.”
- 2018 HOST, PENNSYLVANIA

“THANKS TO THE YLAI NETWORK, I FEEL I HAVE AN EXTENDED PERCEPTION OF THE AMERICAN CONTINENT, AND WHAT’S BEST...THE CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING TOGETHER.”
- YLAI NETWORK MEMBER, ECUADOR

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