



Proliferating Civility via Leader to Leader Exchange

The Aspen Institute
Smith Conference Room
1 Dupont Circle, Ste. 700
Washington, DC

Be it shuttle diplomacy or flying ravens, direct communications between leaders has proven to be an essential leadership challenge. President Dwight Eisenhower knew this and emphasized person to person exchanges, as did Walter Paepcke, founder of the Aspen Institute, who created a place for leaders to think through the greater society together. Our digital age has provided leaders with amazing tools that allow for real-time exchange, so much so that many wonder whether physical exchange is still necessary in an increasingly digital world. The Aspen Institute Socrates Program, Stevens Initiative, and the Eisenhower Fellowship Program proudly present this public discussion to engage interested parties on the topic of leader to leader exchanges.

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

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| 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. | Light Continental Breakfast |
| 9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. | Welcome, Introduction and Opening Remarks
Luis Renta , The Aspen Institute Socrates Program
Maysam Ali , The Aspen Institute Stevens Initiative
Winston Chang , DC-Area Eisenhower Fellowship Alumni Chapter |
| 9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | Fostering Civility via Volunteerism
Ashley Bell , Associate Director, The Peace Corps
Maysam Ali , Assistant Director, Aspen Institute Stevens Initiative |
| 10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. | Coffee Break |
| 10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Fostering Civility through Virtual and Physical Leader Exchanges
Mohamed Abdel-Kader , Executive Director, Aspen Institute Stevens Initiative
Erin Hillman , Vice President, Programs & Operations, Eisenhower Fellowship Program
Moderated by Maysam Ali , Assistant Director, Aspen Institute Stevens Initiative |
| 11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. | Closing Remarks |

Moderator



Maysam Ali is the Assistant Director of the Aspen Institute Stevens Initiative, an international effort aimed at bringing young people together through virtual exchange to learn about the world and about each other. She was previously Deputy Director of Middle East Programs, where she managed the Levant Program, a policy program focusing on the economic, political, and social issues facing Syria, Lebanon, and the region, including the Syria conflict and its regional impact, transnational militant groups, as well as human rights and domestic political reform. Maysam also led Partners for a New Beginning (PNB) and PNB's North Africa Partnership for Economic Opportunity (PNB-NAPEO), a public-private partnership aiming to advance economic opportunity in the Middle East and North Africa. Maysam was named a 2016 Asia 21 Fellow by Asia Society, offered to young leaders with outstanding achievement, commitment to public service, and a proven ability to make the world a better place. Maysam was a Sunrise Fellow at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), the Johns Hopkins University, where she completed a Masters in International Economics and Middle East Studies.

Speakers



Winston Chang is an entrepreneur with expertise in finance, technology, leadership and branding. He provides consulting services to the U.S. federal government, leading efforts in strategy and innovation. He currently mentors and manages consultants working at the Department of Education. Winston co-founded Stevie Boi®, a couture fashion brand of eyewear and accessories, which counts many celebrities and fashion magazines among its clientele. Winston used his fellowship to synthesize perspectives on U.S. and Chinese-style entrepreneurship, the role and importance of branding, as well as the viewpoint and life of China's millennials. Winston was a 2015 Zhi-Xing Eisenhower Fellow and currently coordinates activities for the DC Eisenhower Fellow Alumni Chapter.



Ashley Bell is Associate Director of External Affairs for Peace Corps. As head of External Affairs, Bell will oversee Peace Corps' Offices of Communications, Congressional Relations, Gifts and Grants Management and Strategic Partnerships and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Bell joins Peace Corps with a wealth of experience in external affairs and international relations. Prior to Peace Corps, Bell served as a special advisor in the Public Affairs Bureau of the Department of State, where he developed strategy around the Secretary of State's domestic engagement agenda. During the presidential transition, Bell served as the communications and intergovernmental affairs lead on the landing team at the Department of State.

Before joining the Trump Administration, Bell was a senior strategist for communications at the Republican National Committee (RNC). As national director of African American political engagement for the RNC, he managed and provided strategic direction to over 200 RNC field employees and thousands of volunteers. He is the founder, chief executive officer and chairman of 20/20 Leaders of America. A lawyer by trade, Ashley began his career as a public defender, and later became a trial attorney and co-founder of the law firm Bell & Washington LLP, based in Atlanta, Georgia. He is a graduate of Valdosta State University and obtained his law degree from Louisiana State University.



Mohamed Abdel-Kader is Executive Director of the Stevens Initiative. He previously served as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the International and Foreign Language Division at the Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education. In that role, Mohamed was responsible for encouraging and promoting the study of foreign languages and the study of the cultures of other countries at the elementary, secondary, and postsecondary levels

in the United States. He led his division's work in administering grants for overseas studies and research programs funded through the Fulbright-Hays Act as well as Title VI grants to support language and area studies programs in the United States.

He has advised a variety of clients on organizational strategy, doing business in emerging markets, intercultural communication, and cultural competency in international philanthropy. He speaks fluent Arabic and basic Spanish, is a Truman National Security Fellow and is the author of a children's book about stereotypes. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Clemson University, a Master's degree in Higher Education from Vanderbilt University, and an MBA from Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business.



Erin Hillman, a long-time resident of the Philadelphia area, came to Eisenhower Fellowships in the year 2000 after living for two years in Sichuan, China. The first foreigner to represent the U.S. Peace Corps in this remote rural area, Erin with her husband Ron, piloted a college teacher-training program. Prior to living in China, Erin wrote and conducted research for an educational research center in Philadelphia, earned a master's degree in education, and taught for several years on the secondary level. She previously worked as a Program Officer for International Programs at EF, was the Director of the USA Program, and served as Senior Director of Fellowship Programs where she oversaw the recruitment and selection of Fellows, seminars, and the programmatic development of approximately 70 Eisenhower Fellowships annually, and beginning in 2015, serves as Vice President, Programs & Operations.