Aspen Institute Launches Fellowship in Support of Business Leaders Improving Economic Mobility in the U.S.

The new Economic Mobility Fellowship from the Aspen Institute’s Business & Society Program welcomes 15 leaders from major corporations including Amazon, Walmart and Indeed to develop projects that drive economic mobility and create better employment opportunities.

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New York, NY, February 6th — Today, the Aspen Institute is launching its first-ever Economic Mobility Fellowship, welcoming 15 fellows from major corporations committed to advancing the role of business in expanding economic mobility in America.

“An economic challenge of this magnitude requires the resources and commitment of business,” said Aspen Institute Business & Society Program Deputy Director Eli Malinsky, who leads the new initiative. “Despite substantial gains in productivity and GDP over the past four decades, the prospects for building a life of economic stability for the 89.7 million low-income Americans are increasingly dire. It’s more critical than ever for business to leverage its remarkable scale and expertise to be part of the solution.”

With generous support from Ballmer Group, the Business & Society Program is launching the Economic Mobility Fellowship to help business leaders scale promising projects that drive business value and enhance economic mobility in the US. The new Fellowship draws on the Business & Society Program’s highly successful Aspen Institute First Movers Fellowship to equip company leaders with the skills, data, and tools they need to accelerate projects that create better employment opportunities as well as products and services that support low-income families.

“The First Movers Fellowship has repeatedly demonstrated the creativity and impact of values-based business leaders. We couldn’t be more excited to adapt that program to one of the most pressing challenges of our time,” said Malinsky, who was previously director of the Aspen Institute First Movers Fellowship.

In addition to empowering the individual change agents in this year’s cohort, the Economic Mobility Fellowship aims to strengthen our understanding of how corporate practice can support greater economic mobility. “In recent years, an array of organizations and initiatives – including our own colleagues at the Aspen Institute Economic Opportunities Program – have illuminated and addressed the myriad ways in which corporations influence the ability for people to achieve better economic outcomes, from paychecks to new products that support stability and advancement. We are honored to contribute to a growing body of knowledge and determined action to improve the prospects faced by so many families.”

2023 Aspen Institute Economic Mobility Fellows:

Ilene S Albert – AVP, Affordability & Digital Equity at Cox Communications
Lindsay Aleshire – Manager, Social Sustainability at M&T Bank
Anne Arlinghaus – Managing Director – Co-Head of Americas at KKR
Dawn Boudwin – Director of In Solidarity at Mastercard
Jenny Calvert Rodriguez – Executive Director, Red Tab Foundation at Levi Strauss & Co.
Christine Chen – Director, US People Strategy (Restaurant Culture) at McDonald’s
Anthony Cimino – VP, Head of Policy at Carta
Andriana Diez – Senior Director, Global Talent at Walmart
Derek Goshorn – Director, Talent Acquisition Operations – NCA at Ball Corporation
Ana Maria Moran – Senior Director, Licensing, Insurance Vertical at Sitel Group
Alexis J Taylor – Senior Manager, ESG Strategy at Indeed
Andrew Tein – Customer Success Leader, Workforce Development Partnerships at Coursera
Tammy Thieman – Director, Career Development Programs at Amazon
Sal Venegas – Vice President, Global Talent Management & Employee Experience at Walgreens Boots Alliance
Ashley Weaver – Senior Manager, Marketing & Strategic Initiatives at The Adecco Group US Foundation

The Aspen Institute is a global nonprofit organization committed to realizing a free, just, and equitable society. Founded in 1949, the Institute drives change through dialogue, leadership, and action to help solve the most important challenges facing the United States and the world. Headquartered in Washington, DC, the Institute has a campus in Aspen, Colorado, and an international network of partners. For more information, visit www.aspeninstitute.org.

The Aspen Institute Business and Society Program (Aspen BSP), founded in 1998, works with business executives and scholars to align business decisions and investments with the long-term health of society—and the planet. Through carefully designed networks, working groups and focused dialogue, the Program identifies and inspires thought leaders and “intrapreneurs” to challenge conventional ideas about capitalism and markets, to test new measures of business success and to connect classroom theory and business practice. The Business and Society Program is most known for the First Movers Fellowship, for dialogue on curbing short-termism in business and capital markets, and for fresh thinking about the Purpose of the corporation. For more information, visit www.aspenbsp.org.