Business leaders can play a key role in solving the world's most challenging problems.

FIRST MOVERS
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Since 2009, the First Movers Fellowship Program has equipped business leaders with the tools, skills and confidence they need to drive innovations that increase business value and make the world a better place.

The Aspen Institute First Movers Fellowship is the leading global network and professional development program for corporate social intrapreneurs.

THE FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE

INNOVATION PROJECTS Fellows advance a Fellowship Project that moves their company toward greater strategic integration of business success and positive social or environmental impact.

SEMINARS Fellows attend three four-day seminars structured around four core themes: Innovation, Leadership, Reflection & Community. Between-session instruction and structured peer coaching complement seminar content.

NETWORK Fellows join a lifelong network for ongoing professional development, support and cross-industry collaboration.

THE BENEFITS

COMPANIES

- Greater innovation expertise
- New business opportunities
- Leadership development
- Access to new networks

Over 50 companies have supported multiple Fellows, including Dow, Microsoft, GE, Best Buy, Google, Nike, Toyota, Colgate-Palmolive, IBM and Johnson & Johnson.

INDIVIDUALS

- Enhanced capacity to imagine & deliver change
- Greater ability to navigate corporate systems
- Clearer sense of professional purpose
- Meaningful connections to cross-industry peers

PROGRAM DETAILS

FELLOWSHIP FEE

The program fee is $30,000. This fee, which is paid for by Fellows' companies, covers all programming, seminar meals and lodging, and other associated expenses throughout the year .

ATTENDANCE

Fellows must attend all three seminars. Exact seminar dates will e shared soon:

- Seminar 1: Aspen, Colorado
- Seminar 2: Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Seminar 3: Manhasset, New York

THE SELECTION PROCESS

Fellows are nominated by leaders in their industry, company colleagues, or Aspen staff. Ideal candidates have a proven track record in innovation, coupled with a compelling idea about a Fellowship Project to undertake during the Fellowship. We are especially interested in candidates who work in core business functions. Promising candidates are invited to submit an application and then interviewed by members of the staff and Fellowship community.

Learn more about the nomination process by visiting our website Aspeninstitute.org/firstmovers or contact FirstMovers@aspeninstitute.org

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Who makes a great candidate?

Great candidates work inside of large, for-profit companies

The First Movers Fellowship is designed for exceptional business professionals inside of large private or public companies – typically with 10-15 years of industry experience. The program does not accept people working in government, start-ups or the nonprofit sector.

Great candidates work outside of sustainability funcations

First Mover Fellows primarily work in core business and come from an array of departments including finance, marketing, human resources, R&D and operations. Here are some representative titles from recent classes:

- Director of Mergers & Acquisitions – Engie
- Product Manager, Account Opening – Capital One Bank
- Executive Director of Human Resources – Pratt & Whitney
- SVP, Global Privacy & Data Protection Officer – MasterCard

Great candidates are committed to business growth and positive social or environmental impact

Candidates for the Fellowship must have a demonstrated passion and capacity for creating new products, services, practices or business models that unlock value for the business and for society.

Great candidates come from a variety of backgrounds

The program seeks to build a diverse class along a number of dimensions, including race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, location, gender identity, area of expertise, and more.

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"The Fellowship year has been a period of massive professional growth and I'm quite sure it will pay off for years. Some tools were new to me (design thinking, prototyping) and others were reminders (questioning, financial case, etc). Those skills built my confidence as a leader, and the values development reminded me of why I moved into formal leadership in the first place."

Megan Brown

Director, Global Center of Excellence for Advanced Analytics and Data Sicence

Starbucks

Over 55 companies have supported multiple First Mover Fellows, including BlackRock, Dow, Microsoft, GE, Best Buy, Meta, Nike, Toyota, Google, and Johnson & Johnson.

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Why sponsor a First Mover Fellow?

Build Innovation Expertise

Participants learn and practice the latest innovation tools and thinking, from design thinking to problem reframing. In doing so, companies gain a "go-to" expert in innovation and a catalyst who amplifies innovation practices across the organization.

Gain Leadership Capacity

The Fellowship equips participants with the mindset, skills and confidence they need to lead change in their companies. Fellows learn how to better leverage internal resources, navigate the corporate ecosystem, and engage & inspire colleagues.

Generate New Business Opportunities

All First Mover Fellows identify and drive new innovations that create business value and meaningful social impact. Their work leads to new products, services, practices and business models that have generated significant value for their firms.

Access Cross-Industry Insights

First Movers engage a global network of accomplished professionals across industries. Through the Fellowship year and beyond, participants establish meaningful connections that lead to new insights and powerful collaborations.

"IDEO has benefitted in many ways from our long association with the Aspen First Movers Fellowship Program. No other program that we have participated in has been as effective in helping us move important initiatives forward in our company. IDEO U is one among many that continue to generate significant growth and value for the firm."

- Tim Brown, Executive Chair and former CEO, IDEO

"From a training perspective, First Movers has given me both leadership business skills as well as a powerful reflective component not found in many leadership programs. The team truly understand the challenges we face holistically in bringing change, way beyond just the financial considerations. I wish I could have many past and future colleagues and friends have access to such a program."

- Yolanda Malone, VP Global R&D Snacks Packaging, PepsiCo

Since 2009, over 200 leading companies have sponsored more than 350 Fellows to develop the skills they need to create business value and drive social impact.

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By the numbers...

354 FELLOWS across
18 FELLOWSHIP CLASSES

203 COMPANIES have invested in a First Mover Fellow

56 COMPANIES have invested in more than one Fellow

99% OF FELLOWS would recommend the program to others

99% OF FELLOWS would nominate a colleague to participate

Many impacts on a Fellow's company depend on the nature of their chosen project. Here's a selection of the most important impacts that Fellows report immediately following their Fellowship year.

97% OF FELLOWS have brought Fellowship tools and practices into their company

Because of the First Movers Fellowship:

87% OF FELLOWS say their own growth has improved their company's leadership capacity

76% OF FELLOWS report that they gained critical and beneficial cross-industry insights

Companies immediately generate new business opportunities:

36% OF FELLOWS report creating a new product

44% OF FELLOWS report they will access new customers or greater market share

79% OF FELLOWS report an enhanced company reputation

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