

University honors Mandela Washington Fellows in closing ceremony

Fellows travel to Presidential Summit in Washington, D.C., to complete US visit

RENO, Nev. – The University of Nevada, Reno says farewell to the Mandela Washington fellows after a whirlwind six-week tour of northern Nevada businesses, cultural events and mentorships with a celebration featuring a short film about the experience created by fellow Oladipo Adesida, a filmmaker from Nigeria.

Adesida will also deliver the three-minute Ignite speech he was selected to deliver to President Barack Obama as all cohorts come together at a Presidential Summit in Washington, D.C., next week.

Topping off the fellows' visit was the announcement this week from the United States African Development Fund of seven \$25,000 grants awarded to the Reno cohort, making it the highest number of awards out of all 20 cohorts totaling 500 fellows in this year's fellowship class.

WHAT: Media are invited to watch the closing ceremony, which includes the Ignite speech fellow Oladipo Adesida will present to President Obama, the short film by Adesida, as well as other fellows speaking about their experiences in Nevada. A meet and greet with the fellows and community members will follow.

WHO: Mandela Washington fellows, including filmmaker Oladipo Adesida; Dave Croasdell, the Charles and Ruth Hopping professor of entrepreneurship and the chairman of information systems in the College of Business at the University; Carina Black, executive director, Northern Nevada International Center; community mentors and host families; University faculty and staff.

WHEN: 12:30-1:30 p.m., Friday, July 31

WHERE: Ballrooms 2 and 3 at the Atlantis Casino Resort, 3700 S. Virginia St., Reno

FILMMAKER BIO: Oladipo Adesida is a creative writer, TV/film/radio producer and creative director, who has, in the last decade, co-built media startups into renowned enterprises and believes in creating a new narrative for Nigeria. He does this through writing and producing simple yet powerful documentaries and commercials. Adesida holds a diploma in filmmaking from New York Film Academy and a bachelor's degree in dramatic arts from Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria. He is a member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing and an alumnus of the Centre for Creative Enterprise Development at British Council University of Glamorgan in the United Kingdom. Upon completion of the fellowship, Adesida will return to the Verdant Zeal Group to develop an enduring creative blueprint on the art of telling positive stories to strengthen national brands across Africa.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The University of Nevada, Reno, in partnership with the [Northern Nevada International Center](#), hosted 25 of Africa's emerging business and entrepreneurial leaders for the [Mandela Washington Fellowship](#), a six-week academic and leadership institute that ran from June 22 through July 31, as part of President Obama's [Young African Leaders Initiative](#).

More than 35 University faculty and staff have participated as speakers and workshop leaders, and twice that number of people from the community have helped to deliver content and host activities for the fellows, who are part of a larger, 500 member group hosted by 20 universities across the country.

One fellow from each of the 20 cohorts hosted by universities across the U.S. will present in the Ignite format – short, fast presentations – on how they plan to ignite Africa by creating change and having impact upon their return.

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Note to editors: To read bios on the Mandela Washington Fellows, go to <http://www.unr.edu/nnic/mandela-washington-fellows/meet-the-2015-fellows>.

Founded in 1874 as Nevada's land-grant university, the University of Nevada, Reno ranks in the top tier of best national universities by U.S. News and World Report. With nearly 20,000 students, the University is driven to contribute a culture of student success, world-improving research and outreach that enhances communities and business. Part of the Nevada System of Higher Education, the University has the system's largest research program and is home to the state's medical school. Bringing outreach and education programs to all Nevada counties and home to one of the largest study-abroad consortiums, the University extends across the state and around the world. For more information, visit www.unr.edu.

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