

Mandela Washington Fellows meet local entrepreneurs and mentors

Sub-Saharan Africa's most promising young business and entrepreneurial leaders attend six-week academic and leadership institute at the University; media invited for meet and greet Tuesday

RENO, Nev. – The University of Nevada, Reno, in partnership with the [Northern Nevada International Center](#), welcomed 25 of Africa's emerging business and entrepreneurial leaders for the [Washington Mandela Fellowship](#), a six-week academic and leadership institute beginning Monday, June 22.

The fellows, in full traditional African dress, will meet with local entrepreneurs and mentors from Entrepreneurs Assembly, a Nevada nonprofit educational corporation, at a luncheon to be held at the University's Donald W. Reynolds School of Journalism and Center for Advanced Media Tuesday, June 23.

[Entrepreneurs Assembly](#) creates virtual incubators to empower entrepreneurs and small business owners to originate business opportunities in their communities.

WHAT: Media are invited to meet and greet interview, video and photo opportunity with Mandela Washington fellows, mentors, local business leaders and faculty.

WHO: The Mandela Washington Fellowship is a part of U. S. President Obama's [Young African Leaders Initiative](#), with the goal of empowering young African leaders through academic coursework, leadership training, mentoring, networking, professional opportunities, and support for activities in their communities.

This cohort of Washington Mandela fellows representing 17 of Africa's 49 countries is part of a larger group of 500 fellows selected from a pool of 50,000 applicants being hosted by 20 universities across the United States this summer. Following their engagements with their respective universities, the fellows will join the other cohorts in Washington, D.C. for a Presidential Summit with President Obama. Select fellows will also receive hands-on experience through six week placements with U.S. companies, organizations and government agencies.

WHEN: 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 23.

WHERE: The Travis Linn Reading Room of the Reynolds School of Journalism on the University of Nevada, Reno campus.

MEDIA PARKING: Clearly marked news vehicles or those with media passes may park in the metered parking lot behind the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center off Evans Avenue.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The University of Nevada, Reno is among 20 American universities including Dartmouth College, University of Notre Dame, University of California, Berkeley and Northwestern University to develop programs in conjunction with the U. S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational Affairs and its partner organization, the International Research & Exchanges Board, in one of three tracks: Business and Entrepreneurship, Civic Leadership or Public Management.

University faculty and staff, along with local community business leaders, will deliver sessions designed to help the Fellows gain broad experience with the entrepreneurial ecosystem and culture of innovation in the area. University students and recently graduated students will act as peer collaborators to help the fellows experience American culture outside of the formal curriculum.

While in Reno, the cohort will meet with local entrepreneurs and mentors, attend leadership and innovation workshops, and tour outlying facilities including the Starbucks roasting and Bentley Biodiesel processing plants in Minden, the Sacramento legislature with the UC Berkeley fellows, and Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village.

The fellows will also participate in [Meet Africa! Entrepreneurs and Change Makers](#), an [Artown](#) event, at the Honor Court on the University campus from noon to 3 p.m., Wednesday, July 23.

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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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