



City of
OAKLAND
California

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Oakland to host Young African Leadership Initiative Fellowship Program

Fellows from UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy will shadow City Department Heads to learn about leadership, local government processes and more about Oakland

Oakland, CA – The City of Oakland will host six fellows, who have been selected as some of the most influential and thriving young leaders in Africa, as part of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). They all come from different countries and focus on various interests and ventures such as Food Security, Civil Rights, Women's Rights, Education, Health and Public Safety. This opportunity to see how a city government works together to provide service to the community inspires and allows the fellows to continue to innovate and envision new ideas that will help their home country. Departments hosting fellows this year are the Oakland Fire Department, City Auditor's Office, Building & Planning Department, City Clerk's Office, Public Works Department and Human Resources Management Department.

The fellows are scheduled to shadow their mentors as well as listen to presentations from various city departments. They will explore different areas of Oakland and be able to meet Oakland leaders, staff and community members. The fellows will be presenting on their home country, their experiences and the work they are doing now through the YALI Speaker Series which is open to City employees and the public.

BACKGROUND

Last summer, a YALI Fellowship cohort came to City of Oakland on four Wednesdays during their program to shadow and learn how the City of Oakland operates. They were mentored by Department Heads from Oakland Fire Department, City Auditor's Office, Parks & Recreation Department, Port of Oakland, Housing & Community Development Department and Human Resources Management Department. Their experience had a profound impact on the YALI program as well as the employees of the City of Oakland. In 2016, UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy wanted the City of Oakland to have a large role in the fellowship program for a second year.

Dates of the Fellowship and Speaker Series Events

The YALI Fellows will be placed with mentors at the three City administrative buildings in Frank H. Ogawa Plaza as well as at the Municipal Service Center, 7101 Edgewater Drive.

The fellows will visit the City of Oakland sites on:

Wednesday, June 29, 2016

Wednesday, July 6, 2016

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Wednesday, July 20, 2016

(more)

The fellows will be giving presentations to the public and City employees on:

Wednesday, July 13, 2016, 1 to 2 p.m. at Oakland City Hall, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
Wednesday, July 20, 2016, 1 to 2 p.m. at the African American Museum and Library
at Oakland, 659 14th Street

About the Mandela Fellowship

The Goldman School of Public Policy and the University of California, Berkeley are excited and energized by the Young African Leaders Initiative's Mandela Fellowship Program and its focus on civic leadership. Throughout UC Berkeley's history civic leadership and engagement has played a significant role in the campus' evolution. From the peace strikes in the 1930s, to the Free Speech Movement of 1964, to today's student body that is active in volunteerism and community service, civic participation and leadership are integral to the Berkeley experience. In summer 2014, the Goldman School hosted 25 emerging leaders from sub-Saharan Africa. They are looking forward to welcoming our second cohort this year.

The Mandela Fellowship for Young African Leaders was announced on June 29, 2013, in South Africa by President Barrack Obama when he stated, "We're launching a new program that's going to give thousands of promising young Africans like you the opportunity to come to the United States and develop your skills at some of our best colleges and universities." The new Mandela Fellowship is personally supported by the President of the United States and the U.S. Department of State. We at the Goldman School believe strongly that President Obama's vision and mission for this Fellowship and the mission of UC Berkeley for its students are exactly the same – Let there be Light. Our domestic students are grappling with global issues and hunger for more intimate opportunities to understand and be change agents. By hosting this program at the Goldman School, our students will get front row opportunities to interact with these future African leaders, understand the context of global issues, and take part in developing global solutions.

The Goldman School is developing a cohesive civic leadership program that will focus on the skills that young African leaders need to run better ministries and serve their communities. The program will include developing the skills to identify, analyze and solve crucial issues found within a community and allow these civically engaged leaders to empower and motivate others to become involved change agents. The program will also include enrichment activities such as visiting the California State Capitol in Sacramento to view a legislative session, taking a trip to Muir Woods to see conservation in action and a host of cultural and social activities taking advantage of the museums and sights the San Francisco-Bay Area has to offer.

For more information, visit <https://gspp.berkeley.edu/global/fellowship-programs/young-african-leaders-initiative>

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