



Welcome YLAI Fellows to Pittsburgh!

Sept. 22–Oct. 20, 2018, GlobalPittsburgh is hosting the Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI) Fellowship Program in the greater Pittsburgh area.

The YLAI participants will be placed in a four-week fellowship with a local organization in their field of expertise and develop strategic plans to carry out upon return to their home countries.

About YLAI

The YLAI empowers innovative business and social entrepreneurs from Latin America & the Caribbean to strengthen their capacity to advance their entrepreneurial ideas and effectively contribute to social and economic development in their communities through four-week U.S. fellowships and entrepreneurship training. Pittsburgh has been selected as one of the 20 U.S. host cities.

YLAI 2018 by the Numbers

- 250 Professional Fellows from 36 countries in Latin America & the Caribbean
- 12 fellows from 10 countries will be hosted by GlobalPittsburgh
- 11 different industries, including Education, Food & Beverage, Marketing, Housing, Film & Media, Volunteerism, Attire & Fashion, Training & Development, Youth Empowerment, and Health & IT.

YLAI 2018 - Pittsburgh



Karin Colantonio is the **Founder of Social English**, an organization that provides quality English instruction to young Brazilians who cannot afford traditional courses. As English becomes more important in Brazil's professional world, Social English strives to help disadvantaged youth gain skills that will make them be more competitive in the job market. Karin is also a Business Manager for Monster Energy and has worked for several other companies, including General Motors, BASF, and Lactalis. She has a Master's degree in Marketing and Sales from the Faculdades Metropolitanas Unidas FMU and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the Universidade Metodista de São Paulo.

Country: Brazil
Placement Sight: Homewood Children's Village
Category: Education



Karen De Freitas is the **Creator and Designer of SoKa**, a fashion brand that embraces femininity and local culture. SoKa creates ready-to-wear designs through a West Indian lens and works to redefine beauty standards by empowering women to celebrate their heritage. Karen is a technical clothing and textiles instructor at the Kingstown Technical Institute, using pop culture, traditional fashion, and her experience to inspire students. She has a Bachelor's degree in Fashion Design from the Parsons School of Design.

Country: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Placement Sight: Idia'Dega, LLC
Category: Attire & Fashion



Lauren Diaz is the **Founder and CEO of Nueva Oportunidad Foundation**. Nueva Oportunidad Foundation designs and executes inmate empowerment programs that work to foster career skills that assist with reintegration into society. Previously, Lauren has taught at the National University of Costa Rica. She holds a Master's degree in Justice Policy and Sociology of Criminal Law from the Universidad para la Cooperacion Internacional and a Bachelor's degree in Law from the Universidad de Costa Rica.

Country: Costa Rica
Placement Sight: Landforce
Category: Training & Development



Cesar Lima is the **Co-Founder of Techobol SRL**, a roofing material manufacturer in Bolivia. By processing imported roofing material from China, Techobol SRL works to provide quality and affordable roofing to low and middle-income residents in Cochabamba. Cesar has previous experience working in a hardware store. He received his Bachelor's degree in Business from the Universidad Mayor de San Simon.

Country: Bolivia
Placement Sight: Swanson School of Engineering, Manufacturing Assistance Center, University of Pittsburgh
Category: Housing



Paul Frazier, Jr. is the **Founder and President of Gravitas Bahamas**, a company that seeks to keep young talent in the Bahamas through scholarships, networking events, and culture and education programs. He is also the Founder and Managing Director of Frazier & Associates Ltd., a small accounting services and business consultancy firm, and is the Financial Controller for Freeport Ship Services Limited. Paul holds a Bachelor's in Business Administration from Acadia University and is a licensed Chartered Accountant in the Bahamas.

Country: Bahamas
Placement Sight: Manchester Craftsmen's Guild Youth & Arts
Category: Youth Empowerment



Mariana Leite is the **Founder of Tchibum**, a volunteer organization focused on increasing social activity for hospitalized children, young people, and the elderly in Manaus. Tchibum has more than one thousand volunteers who conduct hospital and shelter visits. The volunteers also provide free college readiness classes. The program has impacted dozens of elderly people and over 5,000 children. Mariana previously worked in the Industrial Department of Forgas, a petroleum gas distributor. She has a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Instituto Federal do Amazonas.

Country: Brazil
Placement Sight: Pittsburgh Cares
Category: Education



Julio César Quezada is the **Founder of Fundacion La Gente del Macotazo**, which promotes education in remote sectors of the Dominican Republic through domestic tourism. The Foundation collects school supplies in large cities, and a team of teacher volunteers brings them to remote areas. Julio has participated in the SMART Project with AIESEC in Brazil. He also works with the National Conflict Resolution System (SINAREC) in the Dominican Republic.

Country: Dominican Republic
Placement Sight: The Education Partnership
Category: Training & Development



Trinidad Schlotterbeck is the **Co-Founder of Patagon Infusion**, a Chilean fruit beverage company. By producing fresh juices made entirely from ingredients cultivated in the Chilean Patagonia, Patagon Infusion seeks to promote the local economy of southern Chile and improve the lives of farmers in the region. Trinidad previously worked as a Research and Development Director at the Saponin Research Center. She holds a Master's degree in Science Engineering from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile and a Bachelor's degree in Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering..

Country: Chile
Placement Sight: Gilligan's Sorbet
Category: Food & Beverage



Dr. Victoria Malek Pascha is the **Founder of BDIN**, which evaluates patient admission data using big data analytics and cognitive computing to determine the most appropriate medical center based on availability. BDIN's purpose is to improve access to quality health care in low and middle income countries and to reduce wait times for patients. Victoria is also the CEO of Kairos Society-Argentina, an organization dedicated to developing young entrepreneurs. Victoria studied Medicine at the University of Buenos Aires and received her Master's in Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Country: Argentina
Placement Sight: MyHouseCall
Category: Health & IT



Rick Valencia is the Founder and Managing Director of **addere creative consulting**, a company that develops solutions for entrepreneurs who are in vulnerable and marginalized areas of Mexico so that their projects can promote equal opportunity and empowerment. He worked as a professional at the Instituto Yucateco de Emprendedores, Reinventa Incubadora de Ideas, and Neos Incubacion y Aceleracion de la UTM. He has a Bachelor's in Public Relations from the Universidad del Valle de México and several digital marketing certifications.

Country: Mexico
Placement Sight: Idea Foundry, Inc.
Category: Marketing



Juan Valverde Fonseca is the **Founder and CEO of ENSO Films**, a film production company that creates media content through the scope of art and marketing effectiveness. Always striving to educate, entertain, and innovate, ENSO Films is deeply invested in using cinema as a tool for human connection and progress. Juan holds Bachelor degrees in Film and Communications from the Universidad VERITAS and Universidad de Costa Rica.

Country: Costa Rica
Placement Sight: Animal Studio
Category: Film & Media



Rafael Zubieta is the **Founder and CEO of IR PTY**, a business that creates and promotes traditional Panamanian handicraft products. IR PTY works with artisans to design products using traditional techniques and markets the finished products to consumers. Rafael is also a manager at Globinvest Securities, S.A., a company that offers services to families who are looking to invest in the stock market. Rafael has a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the Universidad de Panamá.

Country: Panama
Placement Sight: Women of the Cloud Forest
Category: Artisan Products