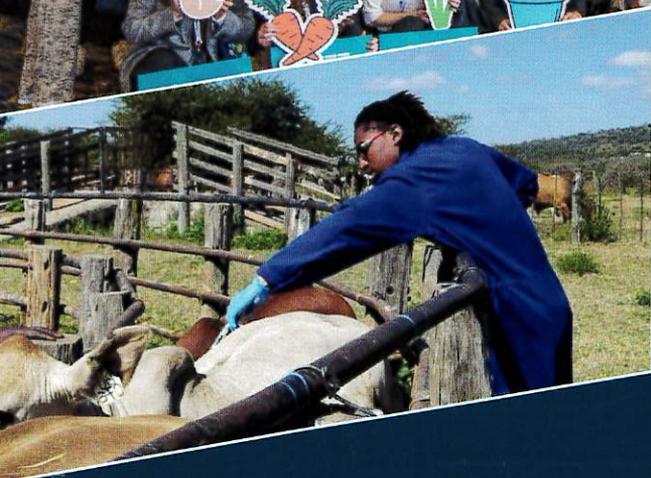


Youth Programs Impact Report

Impacting Lives,
Transforming Systems



Report at a Glance

In the summer of 2024, the World Food Prize Foundation launched an alumni survey targeting thousands of program participants, also known as Borlaug Scholars. Collected from **30 years of alumni**, the data in this impact report reflects how **these experiences have changed lives**. Throughout the report, alumni success stories are highlighted to demonstrate the impact of **generations of youth empowered** to solve global food security challenges, even as they continue to evolve. Alumni consistently describe the Foundation's Youth Programs as transformative, shaping them into global citizens with a deeper understanding of food security.

30 Years of Innovation: Developing a Pipeline for Global Impact 3-7

Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Zachary Stewart 8

Youth Programs by the Numbers 9-10

Education and Growth 11-12

Developing the Next Generation 13-16

Alumni Spotlight: Jorge Del'Angel 14

Alumni Spotlight: Elizabeth Sukup 15

Youth Empowerment 17

Alumni Spotlight: Arilyn Tegtmeier-Oatman 18

The Future is Bright 19-20

Alumni Spotlight: Nick Blumenthal 21

Partners 22



Letter from Alumna

Hannah Jo

For 30 years, the Foundation has been inspiring young leaders in agriculture, food security and sustainability. I'm thrilled to celebrate this milestone with all of you. I remember the first time I walked into the Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates during my first Global Youth Institute as a senior in high school. There, I read Dr. Norman Borlaug's words gilded in the Rotunda: "Food is the moral right of all who are born into this world." That first interaction with the Foundation impressed upon me a core value, an identity as a Hunger Fighter and a challenge to dream beyond the limits I had previously considered possible.

The Foundation's Youth Programs continually pushed me out of my personal and professional comfort zones, always in community with the most compassionate peers and mentors. Each program helped me realize my passion for justice, exercise my strengths (and confront my weaknesses) and learn to bring my heart to the professional work that I do. The experiences also revealed that no matter who you are or what your interests may be, there is a place for you to lead in the fight for food security.

Today, I find myself a graduate of Cornell University in the thick of urban nutrition education in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Though I am continually growing as a public health professional, I'm still anchored by the belief that food is a moral right as I envision what justice in food and wellness might look like for this city and other urban communities.

Here's to three more decades of inspiring youth to make positive change on a global scale and all the people and places that become a part of us on this journey. Together, we will advance progress and create a world where everyone has access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food.

Hannah Jo

Wellness Coach and SNAP-Ed Educator
School District of Philadelphia

2017 Global Youth Institute Delegate

2018 Borlaug-Ruan Intern, China National Hybrid Rice Research and Development Center, Changsha, China

2019 USDA Wallace-Carver Fellow, Emerging Pests and Pathogens Research Unit, Ithaca, New York, United States



30 Years of Innovation

For 30 years, the Foundation has been investing in, equipping and mobilizing a global youth community that shapes sustainable food systems through highly innovative and impactful education programs.

These programs aim to educate and inspire the next generation of scientific and humanitarian leaders, reflecting the shared vision of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and World Food Prize Founder Dr. Norman E. Borlaug and John Ruan, Sr., an entrepreneur and philanthropist from Des Moines, Iowa. When they created the Global Youth Institute in 1994, their goal was to empower young people to address global

food security challenges through innovative solutions and leadership. Dr. Borlaug and Mr. Ruan's vision continues to guide the Foundation's Youth Programs today.

In the beginning, the Global Youth Institute engaged 14 high school students from Iowa. Now celebrating its 30th anniversary, this event has become a cornerstone of the Foundation's educational outreach. Today, the Foundation's Youth Programs have reached nearly 90,000 students from around the world.

The Foundation's Youth Programs offer impactful experiences and invaluable

Developing a Pipeline for Global Impact

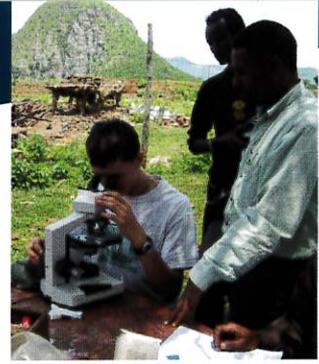
High school students from the **United States** and around the world

World Food Prize
Foundation

**Youth
Institute**

World Food Prize
Foundation

**Global Youth
Institute**



hands-on opportunities that empower emerging leaders with the skills and knowledge to confront global challenges in hunger, agriculture, sustainability and beyond.

Through a pipeline of transformational experiences, the Foundation's Youth Programs honor the vision of their founders by cultivating the best young talent to meet the urgent needs of food insecurity and agriculture across the globe. During these programs, young people develop:

- An understanding of global food security
- Personal and professional experience
- An introduction to available educational and career pathways
- A strong voice and a seat at the table



Since its inception, the Global Youth Institute has been a celebrated and significant component of the World Food Prize and has given our family such joy to see the program evolve. My grandfather, John Ruan, Sr., was incredibly passionate about the Global Youth Institute. He believed deeply in the power of young people to change the world, and he loved seeing the energy and ideas they brought to solving global challenges. Decades later, the Youth Institute remains at the forefront of the Foundation's mission and we are proud to provide programming that inspires and empowers the next generation of leaders.

- Dr. Rachel Ruan McLean

World Food Prize
Foundation

**Borlaug-Ruan
International
Internship**

World Food Prize
Foundation

**USDA
Wallace-Carver
Fellowship**

High school students become **talented young leaders** shaping food systems and **making a meaningful difference in the world**

World Food Prize Foundation Youth Institutes

Over the last three decades, the Youth Institutes have expanded to 20 U.S. states and six countries. As a result, **tens of thousands of young people** have discovered their roles in solving global challenges for a food-secure and sustainable future. Through the World Food Prize Foundation Global Challenge curriculum, high school students can explore and analyze issues and develop solutions.

In collaboration with university partners around the world, the Foundation offers high school students a platform to share their ideas, engage with leading researchers and learn about cutting-edge agricultural innovations that are shaping food systems. Upon completion of the Youth Institute, students are recognized as **Borlaug Scholars**.

The paper I wrote for the Iowa Youth Institute taught me more valuable research and writing skills than many of my high school classes.”

- Grant Gustafson

- 2013 Iowa Youth Institute Delegate
- 2013 Global Youth Institute Delegate
- 2016 USDA Wallace-Carver Fellow, Foreign Agricultural Service, Washington, D.C., United States
- 2017 USDA Wallace-Carver Fellow, Economic Research Service, Washington, D.C., United States



World Food Prize Foundation Global Youth Institute

The Global Youth Institute is a week-long academic conference held in Des Moines, Iowa, each October. Since 1994, nearly 4,000 student delegates have participated. The conference centers on innovative efforts of young leaders to tackle global food security challenges.

During the Global Youth Institute, student delegates selected from Youth Institutes share key findings and recommendations from their research with international experts and their peers in roundtable discussions. Students have the opportunity to connect with other global leaders to discuss challenges, share ideas, and develop solutions for a more sustainable and food-secure world.



***“Every student should
have a voice and a
seat at the table.”***

- Dr. Norman E. Borlaug

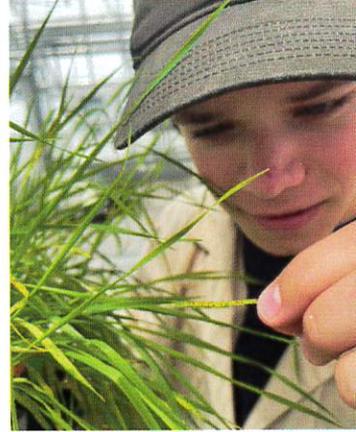
World Food Prize Foundation Borlaug-Ruan International Internship

The Borlaug-Ruan International Internship provides students hands-on professional experiences working alongside world-renowned scientists and policymakers at international research and development organizations. Since 1998, **the Foundation has placed over 400 students at 34 leading research organizations in 23 countries**, providing transformative learning experiences aimed at addressing critical food security challenges.



World Food Prize Foundation USDA Wallace-Carver Fellowship

The USDA Wallace-Carver Fellowship offers college students the opportunity to collaborate with noted scientists and policymakers through paid fellowships at leading USDA research centers and offices across the United States. Since 2011, the Foundation has placed nearly **300 Wallace-Carver Fellows** with USDA agencies to build a pipeline of leaders in agricultural science and policy for careers in public service. Wallace-Carver Fellows have the opportunity to learn from a diverse array of key government officials and American thought leaders through leadership programming.



The Wallace-Carver Fellowship was an amazing opportunity that allowed me to explore and develop my own skills. It was an extremely valuable experience for my personal and academic development, as well as for my resume and networking opportunities."

- Andrew Li

- 2023 Texas Youth Institute Delegate
- 2023 Global Youth Institute Delegate
- 2024 Wallace-Carver Fellow, Poultry Production and Product Safety Research Unit, Fayetteville, Arkansas, United States



Alumni Spotlight



Zachary Stewart Diplomat

2006 Global Youth Institute Delegate

2007 Borlaug-Ruan Intern, International Centre
of Insect Physiology and Ecology, Nairobi, Kenya

Zach is a researcher and technical advisor with a background in biology, environmental science, international relations, infectious disease control and agronomy. He is especially passionate about increasing the adoption rate of scientific innovations and has conducted extensive research on agronomic and human health topics across sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. Zach has active research in Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Senegal and Tanzania. After attending the 2006 Global Youth Institute, he studied malaria during his Borlaug-Ruan International Internship. This experience taught him how to use his multidisciplinary background to advance agricultural production while being mindful of the well-being of those impacted.



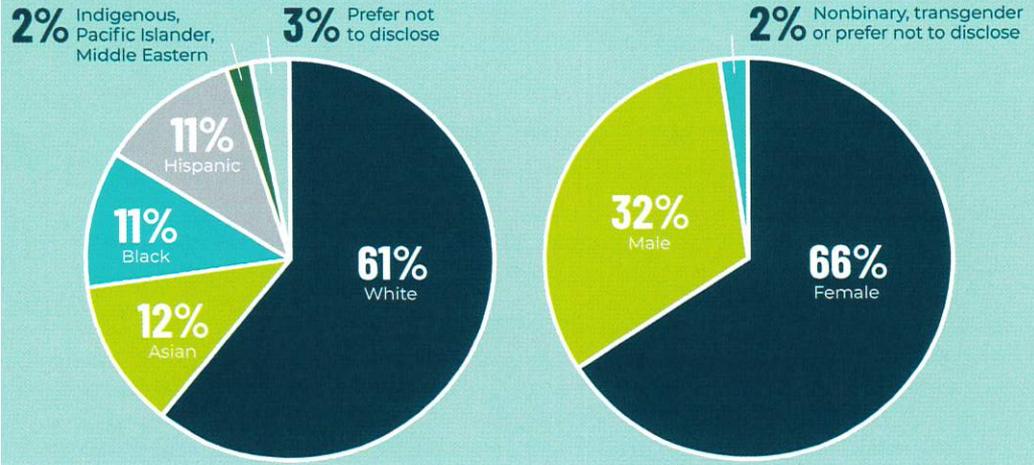
The Foundation's Youth Programs were the central driver to identifying my career and to my motivation to obtain my degrees in global food security topics. The programs connected my interests in farming and entomology to a globally impactful path. Without this experience I would not be where I am now serving as a U.S. Diplomat and Food Security Technical Advisor with the United States Agency for International Development."

- Zachary Stewart



World Food Prize Foundation Youth Programs by the Numbers

Borlaug Scholar demographics 2019-2024:



Over

13,500

students became **Borlaug Scholars** between 1994 and 2024

Nearly

90,000

have **participated** in the Foundation's Youth Program

Youth engagement is

115x

greater today than when expansion efforts began in 2008



Education and

GROWTH

The following sections highlight the impact of the Foundation's Youth Programs based on survey feedback.

Understanding Global Food Security

To what extent do you agree with these statements:

As a result of participating in the Foundation's Youth Programs, I gained a better understanding of global issues related to food security.



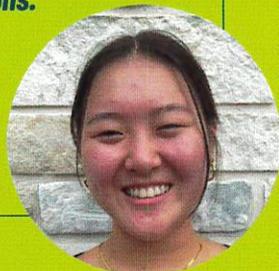
As a result of participating in the Foundation's Youth Programs, I learned how to think critically about issues related to global food security.



My participation in these programs sparked a deep passion for addressing local community food security issues. I became actively involved in working with food providers and distributing food in food deserts, which allowed me to see the direct impact of my efforts on vulnerable populations."

- Kelly He

- 2020 Texas Youth Institute Delegate
- 2020 Global Youth Institute Delegate
- 2022 Borlaug-Ruan Intern, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Lalitpur, Nepal (remote)





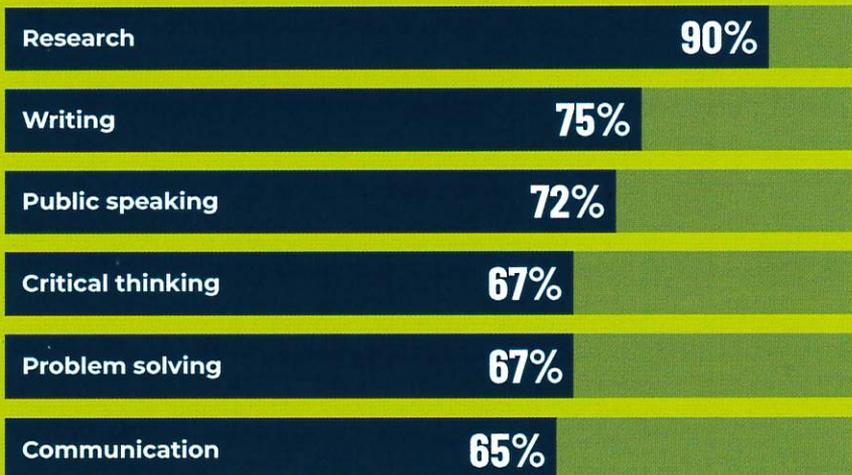
Personal and Professional Growth

To what extent do you agree with this statement:

*The Foundation's Youth Programs **positively** impacted my personal growth and development.*



What skills did you develop from participating in the Foundation's Youth Programs?



Developing the Next Generation

The Foundation is preparing emerging food security and agriculture leaders by developing critical skills, highlighting new educational and career paths and investing in the growth of the Foundation's network of alumni.



79%

agree they **learned about new career paths** by participating in the Foundation's Youth Programs.



82%

agree that the Foundation's Youth Programs **impacted their educational pathway.**



The Foundation's pipeline of transformational experiences highlights the **increased impact the Foundation's Youth Programs have on students who commit to further engagement with the Foundation.**



93%

of respondents who solely participated in a Youth Institute agreed or strongly agreed with the statement **"The Foundation's Youth Programs made me feel inspired to make a meaningful difference in the world."**

100%

of those who continued through the leadership-development pipeline **agreed or strongly agreed with the same statement.**



92%

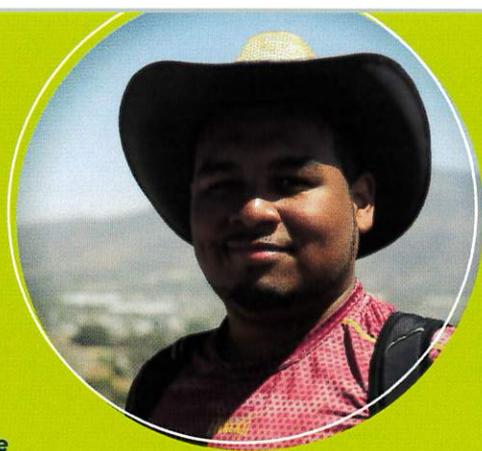
of respondents who participated in two or more programs in the leadership development pipeline agreed or strongly agreed with the statement **"The Foundation's Youth Programs impacted my career path."**



85%

of respondents who remained in the pipeline **earned a degree related to global challenges.**

Alumni Spotlight



Jorge Del'Angel Impact Leader

2015 & 2016 Alabama Youth Institute Delegate

2016-2018 Global Youth Institute Delegate

2017 Borlaug-Ruan Intern, International Maize
and Wheat Improvement Center, Texcoco, Mexico

2020 USDA Wallace-Carver Fellow, Grassland Soil and
Water Research Lab in Temple, Texas, United States (remote)

Jorge is a Ph.D. student in agricultural and biological engineering at Purdue University dedicated to finding practical and sustainable solutions to global food challenges. Growing up in rural Alabama, he witnessed firsthand the struggles of food insecurity, which motivated him to pursue a career in sustainable agriculture. Inspired by his experience at the Alabama Youth Institute in 2015, Jorge has been active in research, innovative solutions and mentorship in order to inspire and empower students from diverse backgrounds, helping them realize their potential and make meaningful contributions to global food security.

“ If it had not been for the Foundation’s Youth Programs, I would not have been exposed to the opportunities in food security and global issues. From the Youth Institute onward, I have set forth to assist those with agricultural and food insecurity needs, and without the Foundation I would not have this focus.”

- Jorge Del'Angel



Alumni Spotlight

Elly Sukup Global Farmer Advocate

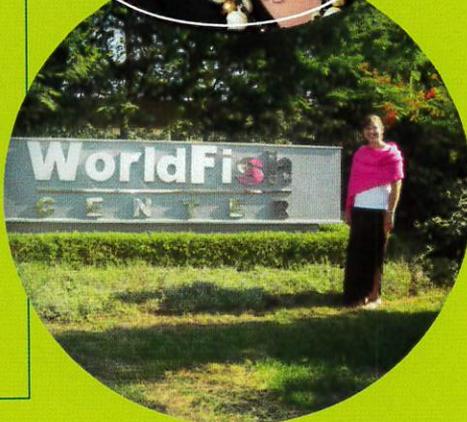
2001 Global Youth Institute Delegate

2004 Borlaug-Ruan Intern, World Fish, Abbassa, Egypt

After joining the Global Youth Institute in 2001 and traveling to Egypt for a 2004 Borlaug-Ruan International Internship with WorldFish, Elly became a champion of food security and nutrition, gender equality, and social inclusion. She has lived and worked in Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi and Uganda and supported numerous other projects across Africa, Asia and the Middle East during her tenures with Mercy Corps, the Clinton Foundation, the UN World Food Program, Iowa State University and Gryphon Scientific (now Deloitte). Today, Elly is the Director of Program Development for the Global Farmer Network.

“The Borlaug-Ruan International Internship was one of the most impactful periods of my life. It challenged the way I viewed the world and how I perceived the way the world saw me. I was humbled by the warmth and hospitality of my hosts. I was awestruck by their determination and tenacity for science. It was the scariest thing I had ever done, and yet by the end, it felt as natural as a second home. It was my first step into the world and shaped the person and professional I am today.”

- Elly Sukup





Percent of college graduates earning degrees in the United States in STEM and agriculture fields:

National*

18.2%

Borlaug Scholars

32.5%

Our alumni reported working in the following fields:

Agriculture	33%	Social Justice	12%
STEM	32%	Governance/civil society	11%
Environment	22%	International Development	11%
Food Security	21%	Youth Development	9%
Sustainability	21%	Economics	7%
Public Health	14%	Nonprofit	7%
Education	13%	Anti-poverty	4%
Nutrition	12%	Other	22%
Policy	12%		

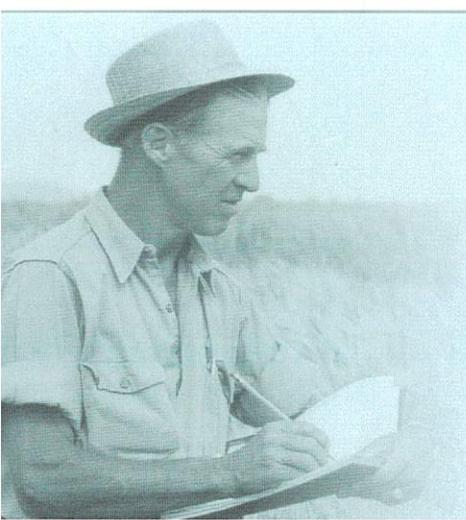
The Foundation's Youth Programs showed me options for careers related to agriculture beyond farming and physical sciences and validated the value of what I was already interested in: social science and communication pathways."

- Lauren Chuhta

- 2020 New York Youth Institute Delegate
- 2020 Global Youth Institute Delegate
- 2021 Borlaug-Ruan International Intern, International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology, Mbita, Kenya (remote)
- 2023 Wallace-Carver Fellow, Agricultural Marketing Service, Washington, D.C., United States



*Citation: Hanson, Melanie. "College Graduation Statistics" EducationData.org, March 15, 2024, <https://educationdata.org/number-of-college-graduates>



"I am certain these students will become the future agricultural, scientific and humanitarian leaders in the fight to end hunger."

- Dr. Norman E. Borlaug

The Foundation's Youth Programs empower and inspire **7,500 young people each year**, amplifying their innovations and driving meaningful action. Their voices are indispensable in addressing the critical challenges of today and shaping solutions for tomorrow.



of respondents reported feeling their ideas were valued at a Youth Institute.



of those who attended the Global Youth Institute felt their ideas were valued while attending.



of respondents agreed that the Foundation's Youth Program inspired them to make a meaningful difference in the world.



of respondents would recommend the Foundation's Youth Programs to other students.

Because I participated in a World Food Prize Foundation Youth Program, I took action to make a meaningful difference in the following ways:



Started meaningful conversations with friends/family



Got involved in my community



Volunteered



Advocated for a cause



Increased my civic engagement



Advocated on social media



Donated to a cause



Started a club



Ran for office



Alumni Spotlight



Arilyn Tegtmeier-Oatman Aspiring Global Development Leader

2018 Pennsylvania Youth Institute Delegate

2019 Global Youth Institute Delegate

2020 Borlaug-Ruan Intern, China National Hybrid Rice Research and Development Center, Changsha, China (remote)

2023 Borlaug-Ruan Intern, International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology, Mbita, Kenya

A recent graduate of Iowa State University's Global Resource Systems program, Arilyn is primed for impact in the world of nutrition, education and food security. After becoming a Borlaug Scholar at the Pennsylvania Youth Institute in 2018, she dedicated herself to the Foundation's pipeline of transformational experiences: Global Youth Institute, two Borlaug-Ruan International Internships and many of the volunteer roles the Foundation offers alumni. With each experience, her passion for international agriculture and development has strengthened along with the critical skills needed for making a meaningful difference.



I was pursuing a degree in something I wasn't passionate about at a school that everyone wanted me to go to. After attending the Global Youth Institute I figured out my passions in life, switched majors and schools and realized that I can make a difference in the world. Every opportunity I have been granted since, starting with the Foundation, would not have been possible without these Youth Programs."

- Arilyn Tegtmeier-Oatman

The Future is Bright

As the Foundation reflects on the past 30 years, there is much to be proud of:

- Engaging nearly **90,000 students** through the Global Challenge curriculum
- Providing unique learning and growth opportunities for **hundreds of emerging leaders** through our internship programs
- Amplifying **youth voices** at our events
- Inspiring **93% of our Borlaug Scholars** to make a meaningful difference in the world

The Foundation's leadership-development pipeline works. The Foundation has found that deepening engagement in the programs has a profound impact on youth. The longer students engage, the more transformational the experience is on their lives, their work and the world. As a result, the Foundation will scale to engage more young leaders to address critical challenges related to global food security.



What's next?

1

Increased global engagement: The Foundation will continue to expand programming around the world to offer more students and teachers access to the Global Challenge curriculum and Youth Institutes, more internship opportunities for youth to work abroad and more global partnerships to elevate food systems innovations. This will empower students around the world to enrich their knowledge and build skills in order to have a meaningful impact.

2

Stronger engagement with the Foundation: The Foundation will continue to develop strategic goals for building alumni networks and inspiring youth to take their seats at the table. Nurturing alumni relationships will promote connection, collaboration and impact.

3

Fortifying the pipeline: Continually evolving the Foundation's Youth Programs to best serve participating youth looks different every year. As the world changes and as students' wants and needs change, the Foundation will innovate to create opportunities to match.



Alumni Spotlight



Nick Blumenthal Food Systems Innovator and Activist

2021 Florida Youth Institute Volunteer

2023 Borlaug-Ruan Intern, International Food Policy
Research Institute, Washington, D.C., United States

2024-2026 World Food Prize Foundation Council of Advisors Youth Representative

Nick's extensive leadership involvement and professional experience — spanning policy, activism, science, technology and innovation — demonstrates a career commitment to continued progress in the food and agriculture space. Specializing in nutrition and artificial intelligence, he aspires to leverage science and technology to combat global food insecurity and malnutrition. He is passionate about global food policy, previously engaging with the United Nations, the Committee on World Food Security and the White House. Currently, Nick represents the United States on several international youth agricultural advocacy campaigns. As a researcher, he has been invited to present his work on nutritional biochemistry and agricultural development economics across the world. Nick leverages his experience as an international consultant and federally-appointed advisor to the U.S. government to amplify youth voices and create global change. Nick is internationally recognized as a Schwarzman and Fulbright Scholar. He also serves as a Youth Representative on the Foundation's Council of Advisors.

The Florida Youth Institute introduced me to the various relevant stakeholders involved with making and informing food policy decisions. Because of my Borlaug-Ruan International Internship with the International Food Policy Research Institute, I learned how researchers collaborate with experts that have lived experience and policymakers to suggest effective measures for future impact."

- Nick Blumenthal

Partners

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee

Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation

Center for International Forestry Research

China Agricultural University

China National Hybrid Rice Research and Development Center

Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences - Graduate School

Colorado State University - CSU Spur Campus

Cornell University

EARTH University

Food and Agriculture Organization

Grow Indigo

Hormel Foods/Caritas/CeSSIAM

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics

International Food Policy Research Institute

International Fund for Agricultural Development

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture

International Livestock Research Institute

International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center

International Potato Center

International Rice Research Institute

International Water Management Institute

Iowa State University

Iowa State University Plant Sciences Center

Iowa State University, Center for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods

Kansas State University

Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization

Kisano

M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation

Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company Limited

Michigan State University

Mississippi State University

Monteverde Institute

North Carolina State University

Peking University

Purdue University

Rutgers University

S. M. Sehgal Foundation

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Alnarp Campus

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Ultuna Campus

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Umeå Campus

Texas A&M University

The Ohio State University

The Pennsylvania State University

Tuskegee University

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

University of Arkansas

University of Florida

University of Maryland Eastern Shore

University of Minnesota, Crookston

University of Minnesota, Morris

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

University of Missouri

University of Nebraska, Lincoln

University of Nebraska, Panhandle Research, Extension, and Education Center

University of Wisconsin-Madison

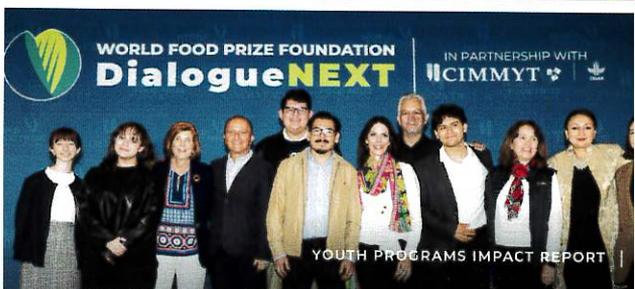
Wageningen University & Research

World Agroforestry

World Vegetable Center

WorldFish

Zamorano University





WORLD FOOD PRIZE
FOUNDATION

worldfoodprize.org