

YLA Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative

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Celebrating **five years** since its launch in 2015, the U.S. Department of State's Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLA) empowers emerging entrepreneurs from the Western Hemisphere to enable the full economic potential of the region's citizens. YLA promotes U.S. business models, increases trade, encourages job creation, and builds lasting and sustainable networks of young entrepreneurs and business and social leaders across **Latin America, the Caribbean, Canada, and the United States.**

CELEBRATING

763

YLAI PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS



48% WOMEN

AND **47,000+**

YLAI NETWORK MEMBERS

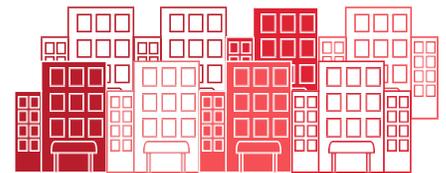
WITH ACCESS TO **15 ONLINE COURSES,**
75+ INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEOS, AND
300+ INFORMATIONAL BLOG POSTS

FROM

37

COUNTRIES

YLAI HAS CONNECTED PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS WITH **729 U.S. HOST BUSINESSES** AND ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS **23 STATES**



92%

WOULD HOST AGAIN

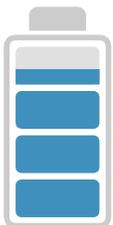
95%

RECOMMEND HOSTING A YLAI FELLOW

A YEAR AFTER RETURNING FROM THEIR

YLAI

FELLOWSHIPS



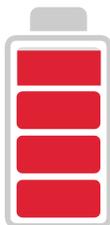
84%

ATTRACTED NEW RESOURCES



94%

FELT PREPARED TO FIND FUNDING



98%

APPLIED WHAT THEY LEARNED IN THE U.S.

OVERALL, **ALUMNI** ARE A PART OF AN **ACTIVE NETWORK** SUPPORTED BY U.S. EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES



Learn more and join the YLAI Network at ylai.state.gov



THE THREE PILLARS OF YLAI



The YLAI Professional Fellowship is an annual exchange program for 280 young business and social entrepreneurs from 37 countries across Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada, who are matched with businesses and organizations across the United States. In addition to entrepreneurial leadership training, fellows build new skills, share best practices, and forge commercial ties. YLAI alumni also have access to Outbound Exchanges, small grants, resources, and events, as well as to exclusive opportunities offered by the U.S. Department of State on alumni.state.gov.



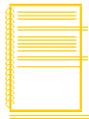
The YLAI Network is a virtual community of 47,000+ entrepreneurship-minded members from across the Americas. Network members engage with curated leadership and business development resources that highlight innovative U.S. models, policy-focused campaigns, and networking opportunities.



U.S. Embassies and Consulates organize activities with YLAI professional fellows, network members, and diverse young leaders to support entrepreneurial ecosystems. YLAI fellows and network members are key partners for engaging with and inspiring young people across the hemisphere.

*Meridian International Center implemented the YLAI Professional Fellows Program on behalf of the Department of State until 2018.

"I would like to thank the YLAI Network for providing us with valuable training resources for our entire team. We are greatly inspired by all the members of this network and your updates serve as daily motivation to continue to build forward." - YLAI Network Member from Belize



"IT WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR US TO COLLABORATE, TEACH, AND LEARN FROM AN ENTREPRENEUR FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY."

- 2018 HOST FROM PENNSYLVANIA

"YLAI has helped me build confidence, see the value in my services, and charge appropriately."

- 2018 YLAI Fellow from Barbados



"YLAI brought me friends, business partners, clients, and a family. It changed my life."

- 2016 Fellow from Brazil



"The camaraderie and cross-cultural knowledge and business exchange has been a boon." - 2018 Host from Colorado



"THANKS TO THE YLAI NETWORK, I FEEL I HAVE AN EXTENDED PERCEPTION OF THE AMERICAN CONTINENT, AND WHAT'S BEST...THE CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING TOGETHER."

- YLAI NETWORK MEMBER FROM ECUADOR



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