Meaningful Pursuits: Recruitment, Advising, and Research of Marginalized International Students
Got Access?
Why and How
Reaching the Margins Benefits All

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Available to All who can Benefit

- Utilize all our human talents and create social cohesion
- Address barriers in equity of opportunity and life outcomes
“It is not possible to be in favor of justice for some people and not be in favor of justice for all people.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.
International Student Stories

www.miusa.org/coming-to-USA
Measuring the Impacts of Higher Education on Marginalized Individuals and Communities

Mirka Martel | NAFSA 2017
Ford Foundation International Fellowships Program (IFP)

2001—2013 • 22 Countries • Over 4,300 alumni

Measuring the Impacts of Higher Education on Marginalized Individuals & Communities
Effective Practices in Programming

Defining target groups

Setting fellows up for success
IFP Alumni Tracking Study

Study begins
- 2013

First Global Alumni Survey
- 2015

Qualitative fieldwork
- 2016/17

Study wrap-up
- 2023

Second Global Alumni Survey
- 2018

Qualitative fieldwork
- 2019/20

10 years

Mixed-methods

Measuring the Impacts of Higher Education on Marginalized Individuals & Communities
Advancing to Leadership Roles

Hold senior leadership roles

79%
Launching Organizations & Initiatives Focusing on Social Justice

49% Created new organizations & initiatives
½ were women

Hiranmayee Mishra
IFP Alumnus
India

Measuring the Impacts of Higher Education on Marginalized Individuals & Communities
Final thoughts

People from marginalized communities - if given access and the proper support - can be successful.

People can also impart benefits to other members of marginalized communities; fellowship programs like IFP can have a ripple effect that extends far beyond the primary people they seek to support.
How Outreach & Planning Makes
For Underrepresented Student Success

Umair Khan | NAFSA 2017
The Big Picture: Creating Access in Pakistan

- 179 Accredited HEIs in Pakistan
- 14.7% increase in Pakistani students in the U.S.
- The Special Citizens, 2008; The Disabled Persons (Employment & Rehabilitation) Act, 2014
- Secondary school enrollment on a gradual but steady rise. The rate of increase 0.84% as of 2014
- Resilient Pakistani Students
- Security Obstacles in Remote Areas
- Building Receptivity to Cross-Cultural Immersion through Education
- Fewer Resources for People with Disabilities
- Lack of Funds
Mitigating Physical Barriers: Creating Access by Building Trust

Source: Multidimensional Poverty in Pakistan (2014-15)- a report prepared by OPHI (Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative) and UNDP (United Nations Development Program)
Mitigating Physical Barriers: Creating Access by Building Trust

Establishing Strong Liaisons with Civic & Educational Institutes in Underserved Regions

- Outreach to over 8,000 students from approximately 50 different institutions in FY 16.
- Approximately 65% of universities for outreach in urban centers are public.
- Hellen Keller; Deaf Reach School; Selected Trust Schools & Low Income Public Schools.
- Special Events – Radio Shows for blind students; IEW Community Service Events (EdUSA Citizens).

From FY2013 to FY2016:
- Capacity Building through Test Prep Initiatives: 206 Free GRE Vouchers awarded since 2013; Teacher Training; Book Donations.
- Outreach to over 316 Public Universities and 62 American Spaces, reaching over 33,941 students.
- GRE Mock Test conducted in 80 institutions with 4,375 attendees.
Mitigating Physical Barriers: Increasing Visibility in Underserved Regions

Creating Access to U.S. Higher Education in Underserved Communities

Increasing Online and Offline Presence

Harnessing Alumni Engagement from Cross-sectional Connections
“I realized that if I accepted the blindness passively considering it the will of God or the fate, my life would become miserable and I would be a defeated person. I wanted neither to be defeated nor my life to be miserable: so I decided to fight against the so called fate with this conviction that I would win because I have the ‘unconquerable will.”

Dr. Kamal Ud Din in a USINFO Webchat (December 3, 2007)
“Today, being an educator, entrepreneur, artist and writer, it definitely concerns me that how in a country with sub-optimal facilities, even individuals with mild hearing loss or speech impediments are unable to live productive lives due to negligible support systems and educational interventions. It is entirely upon us if we allow any shortcomings or adversities to either let us grow or suppress us. There is no in between.”

-From “Amina Rizwan - The Artsy Metalsmith,” a blog post (March 17, 2016)
“Hi! I am Sapna Kumari. I am the middle child in a family of seven. I grew up in Badin in the province of Sindh, and later moved to Karachi for education. I was always an ambitious student in school but my parents were naturally concerned about the cost of university education abroad.

When I obtained scholarship to MIT, the Opportunity Fund Program allowed me to cover my settlement expenses and made my journey to the U.S. complete. I am doing an interdisciplinary major in Physics and Computer Sciences. My research is on the physics of cognitive systems, which uses physics-based techniques to understand how the brain works and how to build artificial intelligence systems.”

Sapna Kumari
Opportunity Fund Member 2012-13
Junior at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
Mitigating the (Financial) Gap: EducationUSA Opportunity Fund

“I could never have imagined that an organization working without a profit incentive could do so much for a student’s success. Much more important than arranging for money and helping with my application was the constant motivation I received. Whether it was trying to get a better SAT score or meeting university deadlines, my adviser was always there to help me and guide me along. EducationUSA has done for me what even blood relatives are not ready to do – which is to give me an opportunity that I could not afford.”

Mohammad Yooshaa
Opportunity Fund Member 2012-13
Junior at Brandeis University
Moving Forward: Areas of Opportunity

- Expand network with NGOs and civic institutions
- Increase Targeted campaigns in the media
- Awareness Sessions with Counselors and University Representatives on Disabilities (Learning & Physical)
- Increased outreach to underserved areas
Moving the Needle on Student Diversity: Transforming Lives

Rebecca Zeigler Mano
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HALI - USAP - Education Matters

- [www.haliaccess.org](http://www.haliaccess.org)
- [www.edmattersafrica.org](http://www.edmattersafrica.org)
Transforming Lives
Marginalized Groups: Survivors (not victims)

Disabled Students
Rural-based Students
Refugees
Internally Displaced People
Orphans
Child Laborers
Girls in Patriarchal Societies
Selection is Everything
Stop, Look and Listen: Needs Assessment
Providing Extra Preparation
The Power of Cohorts - We are Family
Family is always family: Support overseas
Questions?

Please remember to fill out your evaluation form.

Thank You!
Please complete this session evaluation NOW!

Or FAVORITE now and EVALUATE later!