

The project's broad aim is to create professional collaborations and learning experiences between mid-level, emerging entrepreneurs from Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda and U.S. entrepreneurs as part of a two-way exchange program.

The project's focus is entrepreneurship development with the intent to include marginalized groups. Multiple opportunities for enhanced learning and cross-cultural understanding of U.S. citizens also will be emphasized. Six goals will guide the project. The goals range from training leading to the Fellows acquiring entrepreneurial skills and attitudes to creating collaborations supporting their success with enterprise projects while sustaining U.S. mentor contacts through social media. The primary implementing organization is Oklahoma State University (OSU). OSU hosts the nationally recognized Riata Center for Entrepreneurship; its director is a proposer and will play a key role in the project.

The project will support the exchange of 24 Africans (8 per country; 12 during each of its two cycles) and 16 U.S. participants (8 per cycle) distributed among the African nations. The first group of Africans would train in the United States for 32 days inclusive of April/May 2014 with the second group trained similarly during September/October 2014. More than a dozen internship sites, spanning private businesses to not-for-profits to government agencies to education centers, have committed to serving as mentors for the African Fellows, and other potential sites are being discussed. The first group of U.S. participants would travel to Africa in July 2014 (15 days in-country) and the second group in either December 2014 or January 2015.

Targeted Goal

Goal 1: Assist EFs in acquiring the professional leadership and entrepreneurial skills used by successful entrepreneurs in the United States, especially practices resonating with their countries' economies and their opportunities for entrepreneurship.

During their U.S.-based, five-week fellowships, the 24 Africans will receive training in a variety of topics supporting their understanding of business enterprise development, skills and practices of successful entrepreneurs, principles of ethical business leadership, business-networking strategies, venture financing propositions, and other topics as appropriate for their home environments.