



INSPIRING AGENTS
of positive change



INSPIRING AGENTS OF POSITIVE CHANGE



- 1 How can we prepare young people to *lead ethically* in a hyper-connected world that is constantly changing and in need of deep healing?
- 2 How do we ensure that *depth and academic rigor* are embedded in their approach, so their ideas are grounded and scalable?
- 3 How do we prioritize *relationship-building across differences*, transcending social, economic, and political boundaries for positive change?
- 4 How can we build a culture that encourages young people to *seek new solutions* we haven't imagined ourselves?

Global Citizens Initiative (GCI)
builds the skills and mindset
to answer these questions.





Global Citizens Initiative (GCI) is a nonprofit that designs and implements programs to foster the skills and mindset necessary for young people to be caring and creative leaders.



8 YEARS
OF IMPACT



250+
STUDENTS



Ethics-Based Approach

Ethical leadership does not develop overnight. It is a mindset and approach that coalesces over time, and it begins during a person's formative years. GCI develops the ethical leaders of tomorrow through the *GCI Method*[®]. This approach gives young people the tools and guidance needed to tackle the big and hard questions. The components of the *GCI Method*[®] include:

DISCUSSION-BASED LEARNING:

Guided by experienced educators, discussion-based learning promotes critical thinking, active listening, and allows young people to develop an awareness of differing viewpoints.

DESIGN THINKING:

The process of creating human centric approaches to problem solving and project design. These workshops have the added benefit of honing creativity and curiosity.

ETHICAL LEADERSHIP:

Through the use of case studies and real world examples, students explore the tenets of ethical leadership and its application in their lives.

HUMAN CONNECTIVITY:

At the heart of what we do is a commitment to fostering meaningful and long lasting relationships. The friendships that young people forge through GCI transcend boundaries and are a source of collaboration, inspiration, and continued education.



60 % OF
STUDENTS
RECEIVE
FINANCIAL AID

100%
OF STUDENTS
ATTEND COLLEGE



Each year, GCI invites 30 young people from around the world to join our flagship *Fellowship program*, which kicks off with a *9-day Summit*.

10-MONTH GCI FELLOWSHIP ————— GCI AMBASSADORSHIP



"Being a global citizen means living your life with the bigger picture in mind. Thinking about more than just yourself. Caring about people and the planet in places other than just what you see – or what directly affects you. Understanding that there is no such thing as 'it's not my problem,' because every little problem, big and small, is a problem for all of us in some way or another..."

— GCI Fellow 2019



ENGAGEMENT

EXCELLENCE

ETHICS

LEADERSHIP

Throughout *the Summit* and for the duration of their *Fellowship*, *GCI Fellows* receive guidance and support to help make their ideas a reality.

INSIGHTS FROM GCI FACULTY



We engage experts from some of the foremost educational institutions — including *Harvard Business School*, *Stanford University*, *MIT*, *University of Edinburgh*, *Phillips Exeter Academy*, and *Robert College (Turkey)* — to serve as instructors and guest speakers.

Pictured: Dr. Linda Hill, Professor at *Harvard Business School*, teaching at the 2019 *GCI Summit*.

MENTORSHIP FROM EXPERTS



Over the next 10 months, the *GCI Fellows* implement their projects with ongoing support from the GCI team and an assigned mentor. *GCI mentors* are leaders within their professional field who are matched with a *GCI Fellow* based on common interests or shared backgrounds.

Pictured: Keiko Ono, *Social Innovation Japan*.



During the Summit, *Fellows* come together to develop a concept for a “Glocal” Service Project (GSP). Their GSPs address one or more of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals within their own local community.



“GLOCAL” SERVICE PROJECTS MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT INCLUDE:

A textbook exchange program in Japan, to make school books more affordable for students.

A handbag business in Tanzania to help families raise funds for medical treatments.

An website linking tourists with guides in Jordan, to foster economic growth.

Designing and selling tee-shirts in the UK to benefit nonprofits assisting refugee communities.

GSP SPOTLIGHT

Musically Uniting Students and Teachers (MUST)

Tomas launched *Musically Uniting Students and Teachers (MUST)* during his *GCI Fellowship* in 2016. The *MUST* program offered free music classes to children in under-resourced communities in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In recognition of his commitment to making the arts more accessible, Tomas was named the *2016 GCI Seed Funding Award Winner*.



BRAZIL



Left: *Musically Uniting Students and Teachers* in session.



Right: Tomas as a *GCI Teaching Assistant* in 2018.

**SEED
FUNDING**

An opportunity to further refine project concepts, develop a project budget, and craft a compelling pitch. Competition winners receive a stipend of up to \$1,500.

“From my experience and that which I know of other students, GCI gives the opportunity for us to become a force for positive change.”

—Tomas, *GCI Fellow 2016, Seed Funding recipient*

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING ACROSS DIFFERENCES AND AROUND THE GLOBE

50 LANGUAGES
SPOKEN

70 CULTURAL
HERITAGES

OVER 25
COUNTRIES



Upon completing the Fellowship, *GCI Fellows* become lifelong *GCI Ambassadors*. This alumni network provides ongoing connection and support in the following ways:



GoGCI PLATFORM

An online platform and mobile app to connect our global community – anytime, anywhere.



ANNUAL REUNIONS

Throughout the year, GCI hosts a series of reunions in cities around the world as a way to reconvene and reconnect.



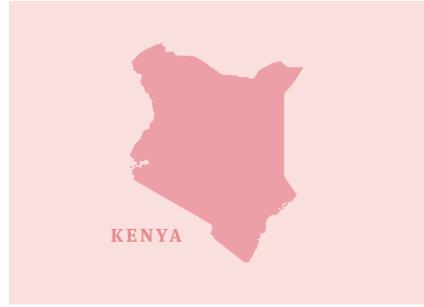
COLLEGE & CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

GCI Ambassadors can access vetted college and career opportunities that are unique to the *GCI network*.



SERVING AS TEACHING ASSISTANTS

GCI Ambassadors serve as *Teaching Assistants (TAs)* during the *GCI Summit*, to guide and inspire future *GCI Fellows*.



Top Right: On graduation day, May 2022, with GCI's President and Founder Yumi Kuwana.

Sydney

GCI FELLOW 2017

Sydney's first time on a plane - and first time leaving his home country of Kenya - was in 2017 to attend the *GCI Summit* held in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He still remembers his surprise during the evening meals.

"I marveled at the scene of people from all different backgrounds voluntarily and joyfully sharing meals and conversations for hours."

For his GCI service project, Sydney decided to tackle an issue affecting many of his peers at school. "So many girls would miss class because they didn't have access to sanitary products, which impacted their ability to succeed aca-

demically," he explains. "My GCI project addressed this by offering the products they needed, free-of-charge."

During college, Sydney created a non-profit organization to help high school students in Kenya access scholarships, and in turn unlock opportunities for higher education in prestigious institutions in the USA, UK, and Kenya. He applied many of the concepts learned at GCI (especially Design Thinking) to launch this new venture. Sydney recently graduated from *Wesleyan University* with a degree in Economics and now works as an analyst at *Morgan Stanley*. Outside of work, Sydney plans on expanding his nonprofit and hopes to serve 250 Kenyan youth by 2025.

Aziza

GCI FELLOW 2015

GCI TA 2018

Aziza was born and raised in Afghanistan, and her childhood was directly impacted by the war. She received a scholarship to attend high school in Jordan and became a *GCI Fellow* in 2015 and a *GCI Teaching Assistant* in 2018. While her prior experiences have shaped her interest in humanitarian initiatives and law, it was her time at GCI that helped instill the confidence to fully pursue her goals.

She attended *Bryant University*, and in her spare time, Aziza worked for *Razia's Ray of Hope*, which is a Massachusetts based non-profit group that supports an all-girls school in

Afghanistan. Her commitment to improving life for Afghans took on a renewed sense of urgency when the Taliban government took over in 2021. Aziza, now working at an immigration law firm while preparing for law school, took immediate action to organize legal services on behalf of refugees entering the state of Massachusetts.

“Whenever I meet a young person from Afghanistan, I share with them the lesson that GCI taught me: young people can do anything, and we have the power to change the world.”

Top Right: Aziza at the *United Nations* during the 2018 *GCI reunion*.





Top Left: David during his 2019 study abroad program in Japan.

David

GCI FELLOW 2016

GCI TA 2022

David first heard about GCI while a student at *Ànimo Jackie Robinson High School* in 2016. “One of my teachers nominated me,” David remembers, “and it seemed like an amazing opportunity to see the world beyond my hometown of Los Angeles, CA.” That summer, David found himself on a boat with students from around the world. The *GCI Summit* kicks off with an outdoor leadership component, an opportunity to break down barriers and build up trust. It was held that year on Thompson Island in Massachusetts, through the renowned *Outward Bound* program.

The experience left an indelible impact.

“I immediately connected with the other GCI Fellows, and I really began to understand what I was capable of.”

GCI would be the first of many new horizons: David received a scholarship to attend *Georgetown University* in Washington, D.C., and spent time studying in England, Japan, Mexico and South Korea.

Through it all, he has never forgotten his hometown roots nor his abiding commitment to helping others. David currently works as a union representative on behalf of janitorial workers in Los Angeles, and he is a champion for immigrant rights.

Anna

GCI FELLOW 2019

Few *GCI Fellows* experience a *GCI Summit* in the city where they grew up, but that was the case for Anna when GCI held its programming in Tokyo, Japan in 2019. “I thought I knew so much about Tokyo,” explains Anna, “but it was eye-opening to see it from the perspective of my peers from other countries, and in settings that were uniquely curated by GCI.”

The *GCI Summit* showcased the very best of Tokyo: the Fellows had the opportunity to visit leading companies including *Fast Retailing*, *Google*, and *IDEO*; they enjoyed cultural excursions to *Meiji Shrine* and the *Digital Art Museum*; and they had personal audiences with leading public figures including

the First Lady of Japan, Mrs. Akie Abe. The subsequent Fellowship also provided Anna with a mentor to help launch her service project.

“My mentorship experience was highly valuable. It was incredible to have a mentor who was equally passionate about the causes I cared about, and who could help me to expand my ideas.”

Anna is now studying at the *University of Pennsylvania*. She also serves as the Chief Marketing Officer of the *Student Federal Credit Union*, a non-profit that provides financial services to UPenn students.

Top Right: Anna at the 2019 *GCI Summit*.



Although our approach to the *Fellowship* and our commitment to the *Ambassadors* is best described as deep and narrow, our vision is anything but small.



THE SEMINAR FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATORS

The *Seminar for Secondary School Educators* provides professional development to a group of teachers and school administrators from around the world. The Seminar, a 6-day program, runs in parallel with the *GCI Summit* and offers hands-on training in the *GCI Method*[®], curriculum development, and peer networking.

“The Seminar is a high quality program. It is well organized and mission aligned.”

– 2022 *Seminar for Secondary School Educators Participant*

To scale our impact across the globe, **GCI offers two initiatives to bring the *GCI Method*® to educators and directly into schools.**



HARVARD
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

THE GLOBAL COLLABORATIVE CURRICULUM (GCC)

The *GCC* pairs secondary schools in different countries for a unique virtual education experience rooted in the *GCI Method*® and adapted in partnership with experts from *Harvard Graduate School of Education's Project Zero*. Throughout the course of an academic year, educators from participating schools incorporate GCI's methodology to deepen students' grasp of the subject matter and provide transformative cross-cultural experiences through virtual discussions and small group project work with their partner school.

“The GCC provides students with a unique and valuable opportunity to put theory into practice and learn by doing.”

– *Katelyn Schoenike, AP Comparative Government and Politics Teacher in the GCC Pilot (2021-2022), King's Academy (Madaba, Jordan)*

As the world faces increasingly complex challenges, GCI's mission is more urgent than ever.



Your investment will ensure that we can give the next generation the training and support needed to become the ethical leaders of tomorrow.



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MENTORS, AND SCHOOLS TO PARTICIPATE
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ENGAGE
EDUCATE
EMPOWER



—

Join a movement
TO IGNITE YOUTH
LEADERSHIP
around the world.



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