IRF Fellowship Fundraising Campaign

Investing in Human Leadership since 1949

International Road Federation
The IRF Fellowship Program was established in 1949 as a catalyst for educational and professional achievement by students of transportation disciplines. It occupies a unique position in the industry, having supported nearly 1,500 students from 114 countries, many of whom have returned to successful careers in academia, industry and the political sphere.

The support provided by the program has substantially changed the lives of many alumni, providing access to academic credentials and professional networks which would otherwise have remained out of reach. The program has also directly benefited the wider network of IRF member organizations by providing in-country contact points and sources of information which have greatly facilitated one of IRF’s key missions to promote better roads for a better world.

IRF Fellowships are largely funded through the generosity of corporations, governments and industry associations around the world. A small portion of IRF member dues also support the Program.

We need your help to ensure highly qualified applicants can fulfill their dreams of continuing their education. Please consult this brochure to see how the Fellowship changes lives and how your organization can reap benefits by giving to the program.

Eng. Abdullah A. Al-Mogbel
IRF Chairman
International Road Federation

IRF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

- Since 1949, IRF scholarships have changed the lives of 1,400 professionals in 118 countries. Many of the Fellows have risen to prominent roles in their home countries where they have been able to exercise a multiplier effect.
- IRF scholarships are awarded through an endowment fund by the International Road Educational Foundation (IREF).
- This endowment fund needs your support to keep up with the rising cost of education and growing number of applications. In 2014, nearly 30% of qualified applicants did not receive a fellowship through lack of available funds.
- Supporting the IRF Fellowship Program has wide-ranging impacts for developing economies and is a great forward-looking investment for corporations, philanthropies, universities and other organizations.
In 2015, Nexco East introduced a moveable barrier system in Japan, creating safer work zones along the Joban Expressway, north of Tokyo. Two of the main actors behind this project look back at how it came to life and the role of IRF.

A game changing opportunity

**Masato Matsumoto:** I graduated in 2006 from the IRF Fellowship Program. As a young professional, becoming an IRF Fellow was a life-changing opportunity. It allowed me to meet industry executives from around the world and start building a professional network. Armed with this experience, I returned to Japan to work at Nexco, a company that manages key portions of the country’s expressways and that is widely known for its use of innovative technologies for roadway management.

**Chris Sanders:** I met Masato through the Fellowship Program. As a global provider of highway safety devices, Lindsay believes in the mission of the IRF Fellowship and we regularly meet with Fellows all around the world. In many cases, they have helped us with in-country introductions and greatly facilitated language and cultural barriers to business. For us, these contacts represent a huge saving in time and energy as we expand to new markets.

Introducing positive barrier separation on Japan’s work zones

**Chris Sanders:** One of the products Lindsay manufactures is a unique moveable barrier system that is used in workzones and on bridges or highways to manage congestion. Japan had been studying our system for years, and it is well adapted to the needs of the country’s dense road network, but positive barrier separation are not frequently used on their work zones. I am not sure this project would have moved without the type of facilitation Masato and IRF delivered.

**Masato Matsumoto:** My colleagues at Nexco had spotted the technology during an IRF congress and they reached out to me to conduct an initial assessment. IRF staff put me in touch with Lindsay representatives, so that I could collect information about the product. We quickly assessed it was applicable to the challenge we faced to offer protection to the workers during the night, and give the lanes back to drivers when they are most needed. A site visit was organized with Lindsay to further evaluate real-life conditions, e.g. were drivers being distracted by the presence of the machines operating these devices? The system was piloted in Japan for three months and will now become a permanent feature of our road operations as we continue rehabilitating major portions of our network.

The right mix of knowledge and experience

**Chris Sanders:** We have a long experience working with IRF to help us grow our business on a global basis. IRF congresses are very important to us as they allow international delegations to learn about our products. By having booths at these shows, we can get a lot done, and build on that during the next 2-3 years of our typical sales cycle. We’ve also received industry recognition through IRF’s Global Road Achievement Awards. They are valuable to us, as we not only showcase a successful project, but get out clients to share their perspectives about what the product can do. IRF webinars are another great educational tool - IRF members give some value and education back, and everyone wins.

**Masato Matsumoto:** IRF’s industry events are one of its most tangible features. IRF doesn’t have all the answers, but they help you meet specialists with the right mix of knowledge and hands-on experience. The return on investment for us is very high.
How does the IRF Fellowship Program work?

There are two paths to becoming an IRF Fellow, the Traditional and the Executive application processes. Through the Traditional process, applicants are self-nominated on the IRF website. Fellows are selected based on a strong academic background, professional qualifications and leadership potential. The ideal candidate has four to six years of professional experience.

Through the Executive process, students must be nominated by a Member University professor in order to be considered, and must demonstrate not only great educational accomplishments, but also a strong desire to use their education in their home countries. Member University professors are contacted directly to solicit three nominations per university each year.
The IRF Road Scholar Program

Every year, an annual multiday leadership and orientation program brings together the new class of IRF Fellows in Washington, D.C. The Program is designed to enhance Fellows’ leadership skills and provide valuable insight into the transportation industry through visits to prominent domestic, regional and international organizations. Team-oriented activities allow participants to form long-lasting professional and personal bonds with their current class, as well as with past and future Fellows. Furthermore, Fellows are afforded the opportunity to meet and interact with successful business leaders who work for IRF member organizations.
Global impacts

The IRF Fellowship Program occupies a unique position in the industry, having supported nearly 1,500 students from 114 countries, many of whom have returned to successful careers in academia, industry and the political sphere. Over the past 70 years, the IRF Fellowship Program has greatly contributed to raising transport standards and quality of life across the world.
“My professional career was largely influenced by the best practices I was exposed to as an IRF Fellow. It also offered me both a new way to understand the world and the idea that with effort and perseverance you can be an element to change the world for better.”

Mario Leiderman
IRF Fellow Class of 1961, Ohio State University
Director of International Relations
Argentina Road Association
How can you support the Fellowship?

IRF Fellowships are largely funded through the generosity of corporations, governments and industry associations around the world. A small portion of IRF member dues also support the Program. Unfortunately, over the past four years, the IRF was unable to award all the Fellowships it wanted due to a lack of funds. It was painful to have to tell very highly qualified applicants we could not help them fulfill their dreams of continuing their education because we did not have the funds available. We need your help to support the goals of the Fellowship program and the aspirations of the next generation of transportation leaders.

1) BY NAMING A GRANT

Organizations, agencies and individuals can create a chair to sponsor students or employees who are considered future leaders in the domain in which these organizations operate. These donors can specify the country and field of expertise for the Fellow.

2) BY DONATING TO THE FUTURE FUND

The endowment built over the last 20 years has been instrumental in supporting the Fellowship’s core mission of providing academic training to university graduates in fields related to the development of better and safer roads worldwide.
MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE IREF FUTURE FUND

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Marion Dietrich  Dana Low  Henry Michel  Van Zelst
Taylor LOCHRANE (USA)
IRF Fellow Class of 2010, University of Central Florida
Current Position: Research Civil Engineer; U.S. DOT – FHWA

The fellowship program in my opinion opened doors which led to opportunities I would have never had staying in Florida. The places we visited during our ten days in Washington DC changed my view of the transportation industry and motivated me towards research. It was during the tour at Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center (TFHRC) where it dawned on that this was where I wanted to work. The friendships I made with my fellow classmates really made the IRF experience. This is one of the reasons I continue to volunteer so that others may have the same or better experience than me.

Once I went back to the University of Central Florida after the Fellowship program ended, I did some research online to find out how I could intern at TFHRC. This is where my career started at the Federal Highway Administration working at TFHRC and this was all thanks to the tour that IRF organized for the Fellows. I am very thankful to be part of the IRF Fellowship program.

“I volunteer so that others may have the same experience”
IREF Board of Directors

The International Road Educational Foundation Board of Directors is comprised of individuals and representatives of organizations who have been elected based on their commitment to the goals and objectives of the Foundation.

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