



CGI University (CGI U) is a growing network of young leaders who are developing innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges.

THE CGI U MEETING

Building on the successful Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) model, President Bill Clinton launched CGI University (CGI U) to engage the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators from college campuses around the world. Since its inaugural meeting in 2008, CGI U has brought together students who are committed to turning ideas into action.

All CGI U students are required to develop a Commitment to Action: a new, specific, and measurable plan that addresses a challenge on their campus, in their local community, or around the world. CGI U participants take action in five focus areas: Education, Environment and Climate Change, Peace and Human Rights, Poverty Alleviation, and Public Health.

The CGI U meeting includes Plenary Sessions, Working Sessions, and other special events that provide participants with a wide variety of knowledge-sharing and networking opportunities. The program allows CGI U participants to discuss global issues, develop practical skills, identify potential partners, and formulate concrete plans of action for the months ahead.

BEYOND THE MEETING

Through year-round partnership building, commitment development, and networking opportunities, CGI U builds awareness and generates support for the work of the students who are committed to turning ideas into action. Throughout the year, participants report back to CGI U about the progress of their commitments and connect via online communities and in-person meet-ups. Some commitment-makers continue their engagement by serving as CGI U Campus Representatives or Commitment Mentors, who provide support, promote networking, and help participants refine their commitments.

Colleges and universities can also engage with CGI U by joining the CGI University Network—an expanding consortium of schools that support, mentor, and provide seed funding to leading student innovators and entrepreneurs on their respective campuses.

Whether they are designing next-generation solar panels, distributing clean birth kits, creating free vision clinics, or mentoring youth through chess, CGI U participants are improving the lives of people around the globe and building a stronger future for us all.





Shining Hope for Communities: Kennedy Odede

CGI U Commitment Examples by Focus Area

CGI U is more than just an event—it is a growing community of young leaders who are forging innovative solutions to pressing global challenges through their Commitments to Action. Below are examples of several CGI U commitments that are already making a measurable difference around the world.

EDUCATION

Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO) is a girls' education initiative and community development program founded by Kennedy Odede in the Kibera slum outside of Nairobi, Kenya. Since launching this commitment as a student at Wesleyan University, Kennedy has turned his initiative into a unique model that provides education, health care, and water and sanitation services to thousands of Kibera residents. This holistic approach reached nearly 100,000 people last year and provided more than 300 girls with an elementary school education. Additionally, strong student performance on government exams has led SHOFCO's schools to rank among the top three in the country.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Donnel Baird's BlocPower is a social enterprise and online marketplace that connects investors to networks of energy efficiency projects in small businesses, houses of worship, and nonprofits in underserved communities in New York. Using a predictive model which quickly determines the appropriate energy efficiency retrofit for a given building, Donnel's team has provided retrofit analysis for 400 buildings in New York along with financing for 50. He is currently partnering with Con Edison and the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition to target neighborhoods with high rates of asthma and retrofit buildings in these districts with safer, greener energy alternatives. BlocPower has a full-time staff of 18 people along with an additional 20 summer fellows.



BlocPower: Donnel Baird

PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Hafsah Lak founded Violence Against Women Centers in an effort to protect and support victims of gender-based violence in Pakistan. These 24 hour full-service facilities, run entirely by women, provide a comprehensive suite of services including first-response medical exams, lodging, crime reporting, forensic recovery, and legal aid. Hafsah has partnered with the Punjab Chief Minister's Special Monitoring Unit while co-authoring the Protection of Women Against Violence Act. This unique piece of legislation, recently passed in the Punjab province, protects women against all forms of wrongful treatment—from sexual assault to cyber crimes to psychological and economic abuse. It also provides additional public sector investment to Hafsah's centers and other shelter homes for women.



Violence Against Women Centers: Hafsah Lak

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

As a student at the University of California, Berkeley, Anurag Sridharan created a mobile text messaging service that provides accurate water delivery information to urban communities in India. Before Anurag's text messaging system, many urban residents had to wait by their taps for hours at a time, unsure of when water would be available. Anurag's solution, NextDrop, provides water monitoring and leakage tracking services to all of Bangalore. To date, more than 50,000 customers have signed up for NextDrop's services. Anurag and her team of 30 are beginning to use sensor technology and a corresponding app to address community-wide water security by assessing water supply, distribution, consumption, treatment, and recycling.



Lucky Iron Fish: Gavin Armstrong

PUBLIC HEALTH

Founded by Gavin Armstrong, the Lucky Iron Fish is a safe and effective solution for reducing iron deficiency around the world. When used in the cooking process, this reusable small iron ingot releases 75 percent of one's daily recommended iron intake into meals. After nine months of using the Lucky Iron Fish every day, families in Cambodia have experienced a 50 percent reduction in the incidence of clinical iron deficiency anemia. Since this initial launch in Cambodia, Gavin and the Lucky Iron Fish team have gone on to work with NGO partners in India, Kenya, Myanmar, and Rwanda, and have distributed about 70,000 units to date. For every Lucky Iron Fish purchased online, one is donated to communities with high rates of iron deficiency. Lucky Iron Fish has been rated in the top one percent of all B Corporations and credited for its innovative social value proposition throughout its supply chain, production model, employee practices, and environmental policies.