



Celebrating the
**White House
Leadership
Development
Program**

2024-2025 Fellows

WELCOME

Dear Cohort 10 Graduates,

Congratulations on completing your fellowship year—during one of the most dynamic and transitional periods in the history of the White House Leadership Development Program (WHLDP).

As the 10th anniversary cohort, you stepped into a year marked by profound change: new leadership, shifting priorities and, in many cases, uncertainty about how to plug in and contribute. Some of you found yourselves at the center of high-impact work; others had to face the challenge of waiting, adapting, and redefining what leadership looks like when the path is unclear.

And that, too, is leadership.

This year's curriculum focused on cultivating **self-awareness, relational intelligence, and systemic perspective**—capacities that matter most in complex contexts. Whether you were in the thick of implementing executive orders or navigating ambiguity, each of you were invited to grow—not just in what you *did*, but in how you *showed up*.

You learned to ask deeper questions, build trust in new environments, and find ways to add value even in rapidly changing conditions. Some of the most important leadership muscles are built not in ease, but in constraint—and this year asked much of you.

As Cohort 11 prepares to begin, they will benefit from your example. You have helped evolve this program to meet the moment—aligning federal leadership development with the urgent call for adaptability, integrity, and results in service to the American people.

Thank you for your service, your growth, and your courage to lead, especially when the script changed. The journey continues. Your foundation is strong.

With admiration and respect,

Dr. Anyana Banerjee

Director, White House Leadership Development Program

VISION

To cultivate enterprise leadership at the center of government to improve the lives of the American people.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The WHLDP exists to enhance the efficiency, accountability, and transformational impact of the federal government. The program is sponsored by the Executive Office of the President (EOP), consisting of a one-year placement and an integrated leadership development program. The WHLDP provides an opportunity for a cohort of career employees already demonstrating excellence in leadership to develop enterprise leadership mindsets and skills to expand their leadership influence and impact. Fellows spend about 85 percent of their time in placement assignments advancing administration priorities. The remaining 15 percent of their time is spent engaged in their leadership development program.

Upon completion of the fellowship, the WHLDP delivers a cadre of leaders equipped with the enhanced leadership capabilities necessary to assume more senior roles. These leaders are better positioned to support the administration's mission of fostering an accountable, effective, and results-driven public service.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The WHLDP is focused on three key goals:

Developing Talent: Preparing agency leaders with the enterprise leadership skills and mindsets needed to tackle the complex, cross-agency challenges facing the federal government.

Delivering Results: Leveraging top talent from across the government to drive the implementation of key administration priorities and address mission-critical challenges.

Building Community: Cultivating a robust network among fellows, placement teams, and alumni to enhance shared purpose, commitment, and capacity to serve the nation effectively.



Marvin W. Barnes

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Placement Office: Office of Performance and Personnel Management, Office of Management and Budget

*Placement Lead: David Yi,
Performance Team Lead (Acting)*

The most significant opportunity and challenge was navigating the complexities of a presidential transition, which brought sweeping changes to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Office of Performance and Personnel Management (PPM). During Mr. Barnes' tenure, the office experienced shifts in leadership, personnel turnover, and evolving priorities. These rapid changes pushed him to adapt quickly, build resilience, and embrace uncertainty. As a result, he sharpened his leadership skills and grew more comfortable operating in dynamic, high-stakes environments.

Three months into the fellowship, Mr. Barnes experienced a significant shift in his primary workstream. Originally centered on monthly collaborative working groups bringing together strategic planning leads from across the federal government with industry and academic experts to shape agency strategic plans, the focus pivoted to a top-down model aligned with delivering the new administration's priorities. Demonstrating adaptability, Mr. Barnes revised the group's content and agenda over the next two months, transforming it into a platform for implementing presidential directives.

The impact of this shift in focus was multifaceted. Mr. Barnes' work became better aligned with the new administration's priorities, enabling federal agencies to quickly pivot their strategic plans to reflect the evolving national goals. He was also better positioned to engage more directly with high-level policy implementation, gaining valuable insight into how a new administration mobilizes agencies and structures initiatives to advance its agenda.

The bulk of the credit for this growth experience belongs to the very capable and talented members of the performance team, according to Mr. Barnes. Colleagues were generous with their expertise, institutional knowledge, feedback, and ideas. Their collective support of Mr. Barnes was instrumental in transforming a period of uncertainty for him into an opportunity for impact and professional growth.

[LinkedIn: Marvin Barnes](#)



Dr. Marcos Bolaños

Federal Aviation Administration

Placement Office: Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer, Office of Management and Budget

Placement Lead: Jay Teitelbaum, Executive Director

Throughout Dr. Bolaños' career, he has sought opportunities to make a positive impact. Even if that meant stepping outside his comfort zone, which he enthusiastically leaned into as a WHLDP Fellow.

For over a decade, Dr. Bolaños has served the public with his skills and passion as an engineer and data analyst at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). As a fellow, he found himself in the unique position to serve from the highest level of government, the White House. Dr. Bolaños welcomed the unknown challenges and opportunities to help throughout his placement at OMB's Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer (OFCIO).

The moment Dr. Bolaños stepped foot onto the hallowed grounds of the White House campus, he recognized the privilege, honor, and opportunity placed before him. Keeping in mind that the opposite of success is not failure but inaction, he immediately got to work. Dr. Bolaños' efforts centered on forging relationships and being open to learning, which enabled him to be successful in his placement. He scheduled "walk and talks" with his colleagues to learn about their work and identify opportunities to contribute. He also found inspiration through stories of their federal career journeys. Dr. Bolaños took the initiative of reaching out to senior agency leaders to discuss how he could support them and educated himself on the enterprise-wide IT challenges around cybersecurity, AI, and data. His efforts had a positive impact, as his ideas helped the OFCIO transform the Chief Information Officer Council into a results-driven forum, and he shared his technical knowledge with the AI policy team as they led the administration's AI agenda. Dr. Bolaños also helped improve transparency and break down communication barriers between OMB and other agencies, including his home agency, by sharing information and facilitating productive conversations.

Dr. Bolaños will remember his time as a WHLDP Fellow as one of the most inspiring experiences of his career and quite frankly, his life. He never imagined that one day the kid who fed baby goats and stacked hay on his family's farm along the U.S. and Mexican border would find himself sharing the hallways with powerful people shaping our nation's future. He is grateful to everyone who supported him, especially his placement lead, Jay Teitelbaum, who provided Dr. Bolaños with the autonomy to contribute and learn. He is thankful for the inspiring leadership and wealth of knowledge shared by the Federal Chief Information Officer, Greg Barbaccia. Dr. Bolaños considers himself lucky to have found incredible kindness and encouragement from his colleagues, with special recognition to Jacqueline Acker, Kathy Kim, Mariam Amini, Jeff Post, and Andrea Petro. Not only did these brilliant and passionate people teach him about policy making, legislative processes, and program budgets, but they have also become wonderful friends who will remain beyond his time in the program. All of these people serve the American people well and will remain an inspiration to Dr. Bolaños as he returns to his duties at the FAA.

[LinkedIn: Marcos Bolaños, Ph.D.](#)



Jason Chauvin

U.S. Department of Commerce

Placement Office: Office of the United States Trade Representative

Placement Lead: Sushan Demirjian, Assistant United States Trade Representative for Small Business, Market Access, and Industrial Competitiveness

During Mr. Chauvin's fellowship at the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) as the director of industrial trade policy, he contributed significantly to several high-impact initiatives supporting the administration's trade policy agenda. The work called for leadership coordinating between agencies, addressing the concerns of public stakeholders, and working with international partners. Mr. Chauvin had the opportunity to lead multiple portfolios covering the Energy, Aerospace, Seafood, Chemicals, Remanufactured Goods and Consumer Goods sectors. During his tenure, he challenged unfair and unbalanced trade practices and policies, addressing industrial competitiveness and market access.

Mr. Chauvin's work to support the president's trade policy agenda included analyzing trade data; assembling the 2025 National Trade Estimate on Foreign Trade Barriers; writing and reviewing various executive orders and proposed rulemaking, including the Seafood Trade Strategy; participating in Antidumping Countervailing duties investigations; and leading and supporting multiple international negotiations. Mr. Chauvin met with numerous businesses and exporters and participated in multiple industry trade advisory committees, articulating the various tasks of the America First Trade Policy and hearing industry concerns on the impacts of tariffs. Mr. Chauvin increased his knowledge and experience in the area of trade policy by completing the Georgetown University Law Center's Global Trade Academy Executive Education Program in April.

Mr. Chauvin addressed industrial policies, tariffs, and nontariff barriers in multiple international negotiations, including the trade deal with Japan, creating market access, enhancing U.S. economic and national security, and advancing the interests of American manufacturers. In coordination with the interagency, he developed the Seafood Trade Strategy on Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness that initiated a Section 301 investigation on seafood. Mr. Chauvin's work with renewable diesel stakeholders resulted in the termination of the Canadian Renewable Diesel investigation and prepared and provided a technical review for the U.S. response to the United Kingdom's hydrotreated vegetable oil diesel investigation. He was also able to contribute to his home agency by speaking at the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) Update Conference and by continuing to update space export control regulations.

Reflecting on his experience, Mr. Chauvin is grateful for the opportunity to work under the guidance of Sushan Demirjian, Rebecca Gudicello, and Justin Hoffman and alongside the dedicated team at USTR. The team at USTR trusted him with significant responsibilities that enhanced his leadership skills, ability to deliver under pressure, and drive meaningful change in the face of complex challenges.

[LinkedIn: Jason Chauvin](#)



Dana Davis

Department of the Treasury

Placement Office: Office of Performance and Personnel Management, Office of Management and Budget

Placement Lead: Stephanie O'Neill, Workforce Branch Lead

Ms. Davis joined OMB during a critical transition period under a new administration, marked by a wave of executive orders and shifting federal workforce priorities. The challenge was multifaceted, navigating evolving policy directives while supporting the timely review and coordination of agency workforce plans that included hiring freeze exemption requests, reorganization proposals, and return-to-office strategies. In this dynamic environment, Ms. Davis engaged directly with federal agencies and OMB's Resource Management Office to evaluate the alignment, feasibility, and effectiveness of agency programs, plans, and policies, strengthening cross-government oversight and reinforcing OMB's leadership in shaping a responsive and accountable federal workforce.

Amid heightened concerns about unauthorized disclosure, Ms. Davis was tapped for a small, highly selective team rapidly assembled to implement a critical, last-minute process improvement for securing agency submissions in response to presidential directives. She became a subject matter expert in applying a watermark link protocol, which was new to the Office of Performance and Personnel Management (PPM), Federal Workforce Branch (FWB), and integrated it into the workflow to ensure sensitive workforce plans were accessible only through secure, traceable links. Access was restricted to OMB personnel and select Office of Personnel Management (OPM) staff with a demonstrated need-to-know basis, based on their program area. This enhancement strengthened document control, protected pre-decisional content, and provided senior leadership with greater assurance in the integrity and confidentiality of sensitive materials.

Ms. Davis' work significantly enhanced the security and accountability of the submission process while improving internal clarity around access and permissions. The technical solution she implemented helped protect high-risk, pre-decisional content while enabling efficient collaboration across OMB, OPM, and agency partners. Her contributions supported leadership decision making, reduced the risk of data breaches, and established a repeatable protocol for future secure submissions. The improved process also fostered stronger interagency trust and operational readiness in responding to workforce policy priorities under the new administration. Her efforts set a new internal standard for handling sensitive documents in high-stakes, time-sensitive policy environments.

Ms. Davis' success was grounded in collaborative leadership and the strong support of her colleagues in the FWB. Together, they advanced complex initiatives, often working independently and under tight time constraints. A shared commitment to implementing the priorities of the new administration—along with consistent coordination across OMB, OPM, and agency stakeholders—created an environment of trust, innovation, and accountability. This collective effort enabled the team to deliver high-impact solutions during a pivotal moment, demonstrating the value of agile, purpose-driven collaboration at the center of government.

[LinkedIn: Dana Davis, Esq.](#)







Oliver P. Fischer

U.S. Census Bureau

Placement Office: Office of Performance and Personnel Management; Office of Management and Budget; Office of the United States Trade Representative

Placement Lead: Diana Epstein, Director of Federal Evidence; Sushan Demirjian, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Small Business, Market Access, and Industrial Competitiveness

Mr. Fischer served in two pivotal capacities during his WHLDP Fellowship: first as senior evidence advisor on the OMB's Evidence Team, and second as director for Industrial Trade Policy at USTR. In each role, Mr. Fischer had the opportunity to lead critical governmentwide initiatives, deepen his policy expertise, and strengthen interagency collaboration.

At OMB, Mr. Fischer spearheaded the development and rollout of the Evidence Project Portal, a centralized platform empowering federal agencies to identify and close evidence gaps through public engagement. He partnered with evaluation offices across 24 agencies, encouraging them to adopt the portal for program and policy evaluations that drive continuous improvement and inform decision making. As the administration transitioned, he also designed tools to capture, process, and assign action items critical to the implementation and monitoring of new executive orders, ensuring transparent follow-through and accountability.

At USTR, Mr. Fischer championed the interests of American manufacturers and workers by analyzing country-specific trade data, convening business leaders and trade associations, revising industrial trade agreements, and representing the United States in multiple bi-national trade negotiations. His efforts addressed unfair trade practices, expanded market access, and reinforced U.S. economic and national security, ultimately strengthening the competitiveness of American industries on the global stage. By translating complex data into actionable policy recommendations, he secured outcomes that balanced commercial opportunity with strategic priorities.

Throughout the fellowship year, Mr. Fischer upheld ethical principles as non-negotiable foundations for effective public service. This experience reinforced his belief that decisions grounded in transparency, accountability, and respect build the trust necessary for sustainable impact. Deeply grateful to Diana Epstein and Sushan Demirjian and their teams for their guidance and to his WHLDP colleagues for their friendship and support, Mr. Fischer stands more resolute than ever that integrity and fairness aren't just guiding ideals but the very engines that drive transformative leadership and advance the public good.

[LinkedIn: Oliver Fischer](#)



Stephanie Garcia

U.S. Department of Labor

*Placement Office: Office of
Personnel Management; Office of
Technology Policy, General Services
Administration*

*Placement Lead: Catherine Manfre,
Chief Transformation Officer of Office of
Personnel Management; Daniel Pomeroy,
Deputy Associate Administrator,
Office of Technology Policy at General
Services Administration*

The WHLDP provided Ms. Garcia a unique opportunity to delve into whole-of-government policy, offering firsthand experience with how central agencies influence national outcomes. The primary challenge was rapidly adapting to the speed and intricacies of cross-agency initiatives—especially in areas like AI, data readiness, accessibility, and digital modernization—amidst a period of rapid technological and political shifts.

At OPM, Ms. Garcia supported the chief AI officer (CAIO) and chief data officer (CDO) by contributing to agencywide AI and data readiness, leading a major update of federal datasets, curating AI learning resources for the federal workforce, and aligning directorate goals with enterprise modernization. Subsequently, at the General Services Administration (GSA), Ms. Garcia advanced AI governance, digital identity, and emerging technology initiatives aligned with the Office of Government-wide Policy's strategic objectives through white papers, strategic recommendations, development of tools for the AI Community of Practice (AI CoP), and leading the development of a federal playbook on AI Security and Identity Management.

Ms. Garcia's contributions have strengthened accessibility and technological enablement across agencies. She played a role in shaping federal AI strategies and contributed to governmentwide modernization policies, underscoring the critical importance of innovation and data in serving the American public.

This journey reaffirmed Ms. Garcia's dedication to public service. She extends her gratitude to the Department of Labor's (DOL) Office of Unemployment Insurance for supporting her participation in the program; to the WHLDP Cohort 10 members and leadership team for their unbridled team spirit and resilience; to Katie Mackenzie for her partnership and insights; to Taka Ariga for his infectious passion for AI and Data; to Dan Pomeroy, Mehul Parekh and Larry Allen for their bold leadership and inspiring management styles; to Babur Kohy who opened unexplored tech corridors; to her best friend, Candace, for her humor and grounding wisdom; and to Jared, Simon and Samuel, whose unwavering support fuels her commitment to serve the American people.

[LinkedIn: Stephanie Garcia](#)



Robert Lee Gladney

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Placement Office: United State Trade Representative, Office of Agricultural Affairs and Commodity Policy

Placement Lead: Dr. Julie Callahan, Ph.D., Assistant United States Trade Representative for Agricultural Affairs and Commodity Policy

During his fellowship at the USTR, Mr. Gladney served in the role of Director of Agricultural Affairs and Commodity Policy. Mr. Gladney led multiple agricultural-related portfolios, including for over 20 countries within the Asian and Caribbean regions, as well as actions in other sectors, such as those to resolve seafood-related and other issues. In doing so, he led initiatives to advance U.S. agricultural trade policy, remove trade barriers—tariff and non-tariff—for U.S. exports, and address regulatory issues.

As part of his responsibilities, Mr. Gladney identified, researched, reported on, and took actions to address barriers and issues that burden trade and limit market access for U.S. stakeholders in agricultural-related farms and industries. In doing so, he analyzed trade data and other information. He worked with U.S. regulators for food and agriculture in providing guidance and developing various documents, including for the World Trade Organization. He also led a pivotal interagency subcommittee that met on a weekly basis and was a lead in others involving key agricultural-related issues, including the U.S. Seafood Trade Interagency Working Group. In addition, he conducted many U.S. stakeholder meetings and participated in or otherwise supported Congressional meetings, including a briefing to the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry staff. He also hosted meetings with U.S. stakeholders to hear, respond to, and prioritize their trade concerns. He led efforts for U.S. agricultural trade negotiations and discussions involving other countries. In addition, he met with the International Visitor Leadership Program when it visited his USTR office.

Mr. Gladney made other significant contributions to advance U.S. trade policy, including providing updates for the 2025 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers, a companion to the president's 2025 Trade Policy Agenda. He reviewed foreign unfair trade practices and provided key inputs to the USTR report submitted in response to the America First Trade Policy Presidential Memorandum. He was also a lead within USTR and the interagency on the update of the Seafood Trade Strategy in response to the Executive Order (EO), "Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness."

The WHLDP provided a tremendous opportunity for Mr. Gladney to have a meaningful role in the EOP, which empowered him to make additional strong, positive impacts on behalf of the American people. He is thankful to all of those who advocated and supported him, including his family and friends and the NRC, which nominated and selected him to participate in the program. He is honored that his placement lead, Julie Callahan, welcomed and entrusted him with significant leadership responsibilities and opportunities. He also appreciates others he has worked with, including his placement team, other EOP personnel, and regulators with whom he addressed challenges, both domestic and international, to better enable U.S. trade.

[LinkedIn: Robert Lee Gladney](#)



Latasha Hackworth

U.S. Department of Treasury

Placement Office: Office of Federal Procurement Policy, Office of Management and Budget

*Placement Lead: Eliana Zavala,
Procurement Policy Analyst*

Ms. Hackworth joined OMB just before the Trump Administration issued Executive Order 14275: Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement, and the office she was assigned to issued M-25-25 Overhauling the Federal Acquisition Regulation and launched the Revolutionary Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR Overhaul (RFO)). This was a top-priority initiative to simplify acquisition rules and restore the regulation to its statutory roots. Ms. Hackworth brought strategic focus and ensured the practitioner voices were heard and used to shape the most significant update to the FAR in over 40 years, simplifying outdated regulations, accelerating procurement, and restoring clarity to how the government does business. Early in its inception, the RFO had no roadmap for helping more than 100,000 acquisition professionals and industry partners translate regulatory change into real world acquisition decisions. Ms. Hackworth recognized this as a strategic inflection point and leaned into that gap, identifying the need for a user-focused, public-facing approach that could bridge policy and practice. The challenge was to develop a grounded-in-practice and backed-by-policy approach that could scale across government and deliver a solution built to last.

Demonstrating strong resilience, Ms. Hackworth didn't wait for the blueprint—she created one. Ms. Hackworth named and brought the “Smart Accelerators” to life—innovative acquisition techniques designed to help acquisition professionals understand new FAR updates and empower them to apply the updates with clarity and confidence. She authored the pilot models, developed the framework, and built a scalable approach for broader governmentwide use. Recognizing that bold reform only succeeds if it works on the ground, she designed and led a cross-government focus group strategy that co-created, tested and validated tools with the acquisition community. Her leadership turned a policy vision into trusted, actionable guidance, one tool, one voice, one agency at a time. The Smart Accelerators are now a cornerstone of select FAR Practitioner Albums, offering a repeatable, public-facing model for delivering non-regulatory acquisition guidance. The pilot Ms. Hackworth developed is being used across government, and the structure is shaping future content. By bridging policy and practice, the Smart Accelerators provide practitioners a clear, usable path to reform in real time. Her work laid an immediate and lasting foundation, empowering faster, smarter buying while reducing barriers for small businesses and helping taxpayer dollars go further.

Ms. Hackworth believes leadership is doing what matters—with and through others—and building tools that outlast your time in the room. She is especially grateful to Dr. Kevin Rhodes for his steady guidance and belief in the value of her work, to Deputy Administrator Mathew Blum for extending a once in a generation opportunity to contribute at the center of federal acquisition reform and entrusting her to lead critical components of the RFO, and to her placement lead, Eliana Zavala, for empowering her to lead a cross-agency innovation team. She extends her deep appreciation to Curtina Smith and Kristen Wilson for taking her under their wings and helping her to soar. She honors her family and friends for their love, patience and support. Above all, she gives glory to God—through him all things are possible. She also thanks Cohort 10, Nate Whayland, Joanie Newhart, the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) and RFO Practitioner teams, Trevor Wagner, the PTAI Action team, Monica Taylor, Heather Thomas, Tracey Harriot, Sandra Schmidt, Polly Hall, the CAOC, AIA, and others whose partnership, creativity, and shared purpose made this work stronger.

[LinkedIn: Latasha Hackworth](#)



Jeana Harbison

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Placement Office: Office of Management and Budget, Office of Federal Financial Management

Placement Lead: Deidre Harrison, Deputy Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget

As a part of her fellowship assignment, Ms. Harbison was entrusted with an initiative to overhaul federal internal control policy to better support the effectiveness of government agencies. This included updating OMB Circular A-123, Management and Responsibility for Enterprise Risk Management and Internal Control, which is a critical guide to federal government agencies on risk management and internal controls.

Ms. Harbison co-led a full-scale review of the circular. This led to the introduction of a more agile, risk-based framework that allows agencies to better tailor internal controls to their operational realities while maintaining accountability. A key part of the work involved ensuring the updated guideline aligned with OMB's statutory and policy responsibilities, reinforcing its role in providing direction in effective financial management and internal controls practices across federal agencies and closely aligned with the updated Government Accountability Office's standards.

Throughout the process, Ms. Harbison coordinated input from various stakeholders, not only within OMB but also across several agencies within the federal government. She was challenged with balancing the varied views and application of the current A-123 with the updated guidance. Just months into the fellowship, Ms. Harbison returned to her home agency and continued working on the effort, ensuring continuity and momentum through each stage of the project.

Through her work on this project, Ms. Harbison developed a strong foundation in federal financial management, gaining firsthand experience with its critical role at every level of government operations. Each phase of the project connected her with new networks, information, and insights—broadening her perspective and deepening her understanding of financial systems and internal controls.

Ms. Harbison credits the success of her fellowship experience to the unwavering support and understanding of both her placement and home office leadership. She is deeply grateful for their commitment to her growth and for creating an environment that allowed her to make the most of this transformative year. A special thank you to her co-lead, Anthony Lomelin.

[LinkedIn: Jeana Harbison](#)



Anthony “Tony” Lomelin

U.S. Department of the Interior

Placement Office: Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget

Placement Lead: Deidre Harrison, Deputy Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget

As part of the President’s Management Agenda, Mr. Lomelin was tasked with modernizing governmentwide internal control guidance to improve efficiency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility in federal programs. The primary challenge was updating OMB Circular A-123, Management’s Responsibility for Enterprise Risk Management and Internal Control, to reflect changes in the Government Accountability Office’s (GAO) “Greenbook” while reducing administrative burden on agencies and addressing evolving risks such as fraud, improper payments, and cybersecurity threats.

Mr. Lomelin conducted a comprehensive review of Circular A-123, streamlining the document from 50 pages to 30 pages, making it more adaptable for future updates. He coordinated stakeholder input across OMB’s management offices, integrated legal review, and developed a flexible framework emphasizing internal control implementation and program risk management. This work required navigating months of competing priorities across multiple offices with divergent policy interests and balancing urgency for reform with the need for consensus and legal soundness. In parallel, Mr. Lomelin coordinated reviews and gathered feedback across federal agencies, ensuring the revised policy was both practical to the field and aligned with governmentwide accountability objectives.

The revised Circular A-123 strengthens federal agency internal controls while reducing administrative complexity. It promotes fraud prevention, IT security, and financial stewardship by aligning federal internal control practices with updated GAO standards. Mr. Lomelin’s work enhanced program accountability and supported agency compliance while safeguarding taxpayer dollars through improved internal governance.

Mr. Lomelin’s successful completion of his fellowship was the result of strong collaboration across OMB. He is grateful for the thoughtful contributions of his Office of Federal Financial Management (OFFM), OCIO, PPM, and OFPP colleagues, and the support of leadership in championing reform. He extends sincere thanks to Deidre Harrison for her guidance and steady leadership throughout the process. Mr. Lomelin also worked closely with co-project lead and WHLDP Fellow Jeana Harbison, whose partnership was instrumental in navigating complex policy issues and maintaining project momentum. This was a collective effort to modernize financial management and uphold the public trust.

[LinkedIn: Anthony Lomelin](#)







Katherine “Katie” MacKenzie

U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command

Placement Office: Office of Personnel Management; Office of Technology Policy, General Services Administration

Placement Lead: Catherine Manfre, Chief Transformation Officer of Office of Personnel Management; Daniel Pomeroy, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Technology Policy at General Services Administration

Ms. MacKenzie supported OPM's implementation of the executive order on Reforming the Federal Hiring Process and provided research and analysis to support Chief Human Capital Officer Council communications. Transitioning to GSA's Office of Technology Policy (OTP) within the Office of Government-wide Policy (OGP) in April, she swiftly adapted, combining the lessons learned from WHLDP leadership labs, project management techniques gained from OPM, and her analytical skills to understand OTP's AI and IT mission, build stakeholder trust, and lead two new AI efforts.

Ms. MacKenzie proactively engaged with OTP leaders to find ways to leverage her procurement, legal, and Department of Defense (DOD) background to support GSA's mission. After less than a month at GSA, she volunteered to lead OTP's GSAi Executive Order Policy Review initiative. Ms. MacKenzie became the OTP project lead for developing a GSAi tool to ensure policy alignment with new EOs and administration priorities. She also volunteered to establish a sub-community of practice (sub-CoP) for attorneys within the AI CoP, to encourage and enable interagency collaboration among attorneys advising agencies on AI development, use, and security.

The GSAi EO/Policy Review tool will create efficiencies, reducing administrative burden and accelerating policy updates by comparing EOs with GSA's 1100+ policies. This new GSAi tool will alert policy owners when a new EO may affect an existing policy, thereby shortening the timeline for implementing new EO requirements or policy objectives. The sub-CoP for attorneys within the AI CoP will facilitate responsible and effective AI adoption across the federal enterprise by sharing challenges and strategies to address the rapidly evolving changes in AI and the law.

Ms. MacKenzie is grateful to Cohort 10 for their friendship and for reigniting her passion for public service. She extends special thanks to the U.S. Army Materiel Command, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, and the amazing Army legal community for their support and encouragement. At OPM, Catherine Manfre, Colleen Heller-Stein, Latonia Page, and Melissa Griswold were pivotal to her personal and professional growth. At GSA, Dan Pomeroy modeled values-based servant leadership and made the transition to her new placement a joy. She is thankful to Larry Allen and Mehul Parekh in GSA's OGP for their engagement and commitment to her development. Above all, she is profoundly thankful for her family and friends, especially the unwavering encouragement and support from her husband.

[LinkedIn: Katherine “Katie” MacKenzie](#)



Dr. Meena Srivastava

U.S. Agency for International Development

Placement Office: Office of Performance and Personnel Management, Office of Management and Budget

Placement Lead: Kristy Daphnis, Acting Deputy Assistant Director; Stephanie O'Neill, Acting Federal Workforce Branch Chief

Ms. Srivastava joined OMB with a strong desire to learn, grow, contribute, and lead. The role within the FWB presented an exciting opportunity at the center of government requiring adaptability, persistence, and a positive mindset during a time of transition. Stepping into unfamiliar territory, Ms. Srivastava embraced the chance to develop new skills in strategic workforce planning, navigate a new agency, and build meaningful professional relationships within OMB and among her co-fellows. The experience increased her resilience while opening doors to valuable learning opportunities and growth.

Upon joining the FWB, Ms. Srivastava focused on assessing mission critical occupations and identifying ways to reduce hiring burdens and improve time-to-hire efficiency. She collaborated with the branch, other offices within OMB, and federal agencies to document successful pilot initiatives. These insights played a key role in shaping the approach to the governmentwide hiring freeze and its exemptions, helping ensure critical positions across agencies were maintained to support essential missions. Furthermore, Ms. Srivastava served as an agency desk officer for a subset of agencies, collaborating closely with budget examiners as they implemented workforce policies.

Given Ms. Srivastava's in-depth research on mission critical occupations and workforce shaping strategies, she played a pivotal role in preparing FWB to rapidly respond to and implement new workforce policies. She led and streamlined the exemption review process during the hiring freeze, resulting in both clarity and efficiency. Her work ensured leadership was up to date on hiring freeze exemptions so they could make approvals quickly and coordinate across OMB. Additionally, she enhanced collaboration with budget examiners, helping OMB and agencies navigate evolving workforce planning directives with greater alignment and support.

Reflecting on her time at OMB, Ms. Srivastava is grateful for the guidance of Kristy Daphnis and Stephanie O'Neill and the opportunity to work with a committed team. She learned a great deal from her FWB colleagues and the cohort and developed a deep appreciation for collective leadership. The fellowship allowed her to step beyond her global health background to build key skills in strategic workforce planning that will help her in a future leadership role. She also deeply values the support and insights gained through peer mentoring from the cohort, which helped shape her perspective and future career direction.

[LinkedIn: Meena Srivastava](#)



Jessica Stephens

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Placement Office: Office of Performance and Personnel Management, Office of Management and Budget

Placement Lead: Diana Epstein, Director of Federal Evidence

When Ms. Stephens began her fellowship in PPM in September 2024, she expected the upcoming presidential transition would shape her experience working within the center of government. She did not anticipate how myriad shifts in administration priorities, changes to office leadership and staff, and team restructuring would present new challenges and opportunities to refine her leadership skills. The constant change and uncertainty provided Ms. Stephens a chance to leverage her background to contribute in meaningful ways.

In January, as the presidential inauguration approached, Ms. Stephens recognized the need for PPM and other offices within OMB to pivot quickly in response to new priorities. Anticipating a flurry of new executive orders soon after the president was sworn in, she proactively developed a tracking system and process for PPM staff to populate and reference to help them react to new directives. On the evening of Inauguration Day, as the first executive orders were signed, Ms. Stephens coordinated among the WHLDP Cohort 10 Fellows to read each new memo or order and categorize them in preparation for detailed analysis by PPM staff the following day.

As a result of Ms. Stephens' foresight and planning, PPM was ready on day one of the new administration to review new directives and position itself at the forefront of efforts to analyze and execute on updated priorities. PPM's initial analysis and tracking served as the foundation for efforts across OMB management offices to implement executive orders. Through this work, Ms. Stephens also fostered relationships with colleagues that enabled her to support other cross-OMB and cross-agency projects in later months.

Throughout her fellowship, Ms. Stephens was fortunate to work alongside many committed public servants at the center of government. She is especially grateful to her former Evidence Team colleagues, the staff and leadership in PPM, and the rest of the WHLDP Cohort 10 class whose dedication, compassion, and talent shone through every interaction and unanticipated challenge.

[LinkedIn: Jessica Stephens](#)



Jeffrey Whited

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Placement Office: Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget; Council on Environmental Quality

Placement Lead: Steven Mackey, Branch Chief of Office of Federal Financial Management; Maddi Reeves, Deputy Chief Sustainability Officer

When starting the fellowship, Mr. Whited joined an Office of the Chief Sustainability Officer (OSCO) team that was well underway in meeting its goals. However, he quickly got up to speed and worked to achieve results where he could.

Shortly after joining OSCO, Mr. Whited completed the organization's long-awaited development of training courses. This effort included coordinating with subject matter experts from across the federal government. Due to Mr. Whited's leadership, the training was developed and delivered in under two months.

After joining OFFM, Mr. Whited volunteered to assist with the completion of the annual Compliance Report. His quick action ensured the report was delivered to OMB management in a timely manner.

None of Mr. Whited's accomplishments would have been possible without the dedicated staff of the Council for Environmental Quality and OMB. He appreciates the guidance provided by his placement leads and the assistance from coworkers. However, the biggest impact and the greatest thanks go to his fellow cohort members, without whom the program would not have been the same.

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