The Alan K. Simpson-Norman Y. Mineta Leader Series

A Panel discussion with members of the White House Fellowship Program, moderated by TWC Alumna Fatimeh Shamseddine

March 4, 2013 | 1:00 pm to 2:15 pm | Blinken Auditorium, TWC Residential & Academic Facility
To find this information online, please visit—http://www.twc.edu/smls
(The dress code is business professional.)

The Simpson-Mineta Leaders Series is founded in the spirit of the lifelong friendship of two extraordinary leaders from opposite sides of the aisle. Norman Y. Mineta and Alan K. Simpson met during World War II when Simpson’s Boy Scout troop met with Mineta’s in the Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming where Secretary Mineta’s family was then interned with over 10,000 other Japanese-Americans. Despite their differences, both their friendship and their commitment to leadership and public service endured.

The Simpson-Mineta Leaders Series aims to create a forum in which students from around the country and the world can engage with extraordinary leaders, explore issues of contemporary public concern, and articulate their own views about the meaning of leadership and citizenship in today’s society.

Fatimeh Shamseddine - Moderator
Special Assistant to the Director

Fatimeh Shamseddine currently serves as the Special Assistant to the Director of The President’s Commission on White House Fellowships, also known as the White House Fellows Program. In this capacity she manages the White House Fellowships recruitment and outreach efforts and leads in the development of innovative marketing and recruitment strategies. In addition, Fatimeh advises the Director on process improvement, strategic planning, and efficiency techniques. Prior to this, she served as an Organizational Development Consultant for the Center for Global Understanding. She was also a Fellow of the Shinnyo-en Foundation where worked on the Six Billion Paths to Peace Initiative—her project focused on the impacts of intercultural and interfaith dialogue. In 2009 Fatimeh interned through the Washington Center at a law firm in MD. She holds degrees from the University of South Florida and a Master’s degree from George Mason University in International Commerce and Policy.
Maj. Ariel Grace Batungbacal, USAF
White House Fellow
Placement: U.S. Department of Labor
Hometown: Marietta, GA

Ariel Grace Batungbacal is a Major in the U.S. Air Force; and served as the Joint Staff J2/Director of Intelligence's Deputy Executive Assistant. Prior to that, she was Branch Chief for Middle East Strategy, leading intelligence efforts for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff's policy development. She served over five years in overseas assignments, supporting military operations in Asia, Europe and the Middle East, including three deployments supporting Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. She received the National Intelligence Meritorious Unit Award, and several military decorations to include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and two AF Meritorious Service Medals. Ariel currently serves as a founding board member for The Doolittle Foundation. She has committed approximately 3,000 hours over the last decade to community organizations that cultivate women leaders, such as Junior League, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Inc. She is a Southern California Leadership Network Fellow, and a Junior League Board Fellow. Ariel received an Executive Master’s in Leadership from Georgetown University where her research on women in leadership was showcased. She earned a M.A. in Diplomacy from Norwich University, B.A. in Chinese and B.A. in Government/Politics from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Candice Jones
White House Fellow
Placement: U.S. Department of Education
Hometown: Chicago, IL

Candice Jones was the Executive Director of the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission. She managed a state commission tasked with the distribution of Federal Title II block grant funds. Prior to joining the Commission, Candice was a Juvenile Justice Program Officer in the MacArthur Foundation’s US Programs. In that role she managed a grant portfolio in excess of $40 million including two intensive strategies: to improve racial and ethnic disparities; and to improve the quality of juvenile indigent defense. Before joining the Foundation, she worked as a litigator at Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum & Nagelberg, focusing on complex commercial litigation. She identified and piloted a restorative justice program in an area high school that served pregnant and parenting young women, while at the firm. Candice has provided criminal defense representation to youth and adults at the Legal Aid Society’s Juvenile Rights Division and the Neighborhood Defender Services of Harlem, both in New York. She has also worked in Japan as an English Language Instructor and in Chicago as a rape crisis advocate. Her bachelor’s degree is in Political Science and African & African-American Studies from Washington University in St. Louis and her J.D. from New York University School of Law.
Amen Ra Mashariki
White House Fellow
Placement: U.S. Office of Personnel Management
Hometown: Brooklyn, NY

Amen Ra Mashariki was a computer scientist at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (JHU APL). As a senior bioinformatics researcher at JHU APL he developed and utilized smart algorithms that explore biological data in search of complex associations and relationships in order to provide insight into common biological diagnostics and clinical trends. Prior to academia, Amen spent 7 years in the technical industry as a senior software engineer for Motorola. He has authored 5 patent disclosures, and received the prestigious Chicago Museum of Science ‘Top Technology Innovators’ award. Over the last 8 years Amen has spent his summers teaching advanced computer science courses for 7th–10th graders at the Johns Hopkins University Center For Talented Youth program. Amen earned his doctorate degree from Morgan State University, his Master’s degree in computer science from Howard University, and also his bachelor’s degree in computer science from Lincoln University.