

The background of the entire page is a dark, intricate marbled pattern. It features swirling, organic shapes in various shades of black, dark grey, and charcoal, creating a complex, textured effect. The pattern is dense and covers the entire surface.

THE
LEWIS LATIMER
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT

DECEMBER 2025

2025 marked a pivotal year for the Lewis Latimer Fellowship Program—our most impactful year to date.

What began as a bold idea to support visionary leaders has matured into a multi-dimensional platform for innovation, community, and cultural impact. Intentional changes to the program's structure accelerated its influence, clarified its purpose, and positioned the Fellowship for long-term sustainability.

By welcoming more entrepreneurial fellows alongside academic researchers and increasing opportunities for inter-fellow engagement, the Fellowship became more dynamic, collaborative, and outward-facing. These shifts strengthened the program's relevance and reinforced its role as a catalyst for real-world leadership and innovation.

The Fellowship's reach expanded significantly in 2025. The Latimer Futures Summit emerged as a powerful new platform, extending our influence and bringing new voices into the conversation. A reflective gathering on Martha's Vineyard offered a meaningful pause—an opportunity for fellows to reconnect with purpose and values. Inspiration also came from this year's Edison Awards honorees, Jensen Huang and Michael Crow, whose leadership resonated deeply with the fellows and prompted early efforts to forge lasting partnerships.

Most importantly, the fellows themselves embodied the spirit of the year. The eight fellows embraced a shared identity as the "Great 8," signaling a shift from individual achievement to collective collaboration. New settings, including a rooftop gathering in Fort Myers, fostered deeper connection. Together, these moments and lessons reflect a Fellowship gaining clarity, confidence, and momentum—ready for what comes next.



Edison Awards. April 2025



Latimer Summit. September 2025



Latimer Summit. September 2025

Fellow Highlights

In 2025, the Lewis Latimer Fellowship translated vision into action—connecting fellows to partners, platforms, and opportunities that advanced their work in measurable ways. Here are a few highlights:



Randy Allen

Randy was introduced to leading thinkers at the RAND Corporation to explore the future of rare earth mineral refining. He was also connected with Black & Veatch to assess opportunities for technical and strategic collaboration.



Aaron Fitzgerald

Aaron was introduced to experts at Black & Veatch and to Paul Jabari, Chief Innovation Officer at Rice University for access to new carbon capture technology, facilities, and talent. Aaron worked with LLF leadership on approaches to investment and grant funding from the quarter trillion-dollar DAF asset platform; initial cash returns started in late 2025 with 2026 promising more.



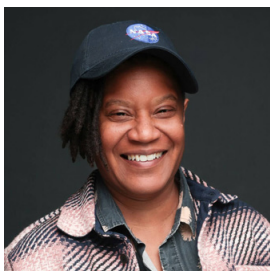
Demetrius Harris

Demetrius was introduced to Derek Lewis of Skyway to explore potential collaboration around EV vertical takeoff and landing infrastructure. He also connected with a former senior United Airlines executive interested in supporting his work, as well as architects, Arizona State University's flight school, and Dreamscape Learn to advance his VR-based flight training vision.



Alexandria Maloney

Alexandria was introduced to RAND collaborators to form a first-of-its-kind partnership with a graduate school to develop her international affairs curriculum. She was also connected with Wilson Sonsini through a pro bono partnership for legal counsel on intellectual property usage related to the Powell name, and with senior leadership at ASU to explore infrastructure support for her inclusive diplomacy program.



Lauren Ruffin

Lauren was introduced to influential filmmaker Reginald Hudlin as a potential creative collaborator. She was also featured in a keynote interview with Hudlin at the Latimer Futures Summit, significantly elevating her public profile.



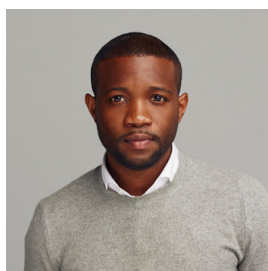
Jason Teeters

Jason participated in a private tutorial on AI tools and frameworks to enhance storytelling in leadership education. He was also introduced to ASU and North Carolina A&T (NCAT) as a potential platform for scaling his online leadership courses.



Titus Walker

Titus was introduced to leadership at Arizona State University's new gaming school, resulting in a pilot partnership with potential revenue. He also began collaborating with fellow Shameik Moore, including promotional support at the UEL event in Houston, and was introduced to North Carolina A&T (NCAT) liaison Shawn Foxx to build relationships for future opportunities.



Courtney Woodruff

Courtney was introduced to Nicholas NegroponTE for a podcast recording that strengthened supporter engagement. NegroponTE later attended and supported an investor pitch meeting in Washington, D.C. Courtney also connected with Willie Deese to explore educational content production for NCAT and with ASU EdPlus regarding a potential business collaboration.

Latimer's commitment to its fellows extends well beyond the fellowship year. In 2025, the program continued to support alumni across cohorts, reinforcing its identity as a long-term, interconnected community.

Sian Proctor (Cohort Three)

Awarded a fellowship to the Woodman Artist Residency Program through facilitation by the Lewis Latimer Fellowship Program.

Shameik Moore (Cohort Two)

The program introduced Shameik Moore to Shawn Foxx, a seasoned marketer and sales executive, to serve as his fractional COO. Together, they have already built a 100-campus distribution network to promote Shameik's upcoming film, scheduled for release in February 2026.

2025 Edison Awards, *Fort Myers, FL*

In April 2025, Latimer Fellows gathered in Fort Myers to participate in the Edison Awards—an important moment for connection, visibility, and community engagement. The week began with a Welcome Reception and Community Night at Urban Community Farm in partnership with STEMCAT, followed by a private reception that brought together fellows, supporters, and local leaders.



Fellows also participated in professional development experiences designed to support growth and collaboration, including From Stuck to Scale, a workshop led by Andrea Kates at the Collaboratory. An informal rooftop gathering at the Luminary Hotel further strengthened relationships across cohorts.

Community engagement and storytelling remained central throughout the experience. Fellows participated in youth-focused programming, recorded podcast conversations capturing their motivations and perspectives, and engaged in workshops on resilience and storytelling. Together, these moments reinforced the Edison Awards as both a public stage and a meaningful space for reflection, learning, and inspiration.

2025 Latimer Futures Summit, *Boston, MA*

The Latimer Futures Summit marked a major milestone for the Fellowship, created in response to a growing need for a safe, intentional space where visionary Black leaders could gather, reflect, and exchange ideas amid a complex political and cultural moment. Inspired by W.E.B. Du Bois's concept of the "Talented Tenth," the Summit was intentionally designed as a highly curated, "Black TED"—style gathering—one that not only fostered bold thinking and dialogue, but also established a powerful new platform for brand-building and long-term revenue generation for the Fellowship.



I feel like my mind and soul have been nourished. Now, the work starts. Thank you.

Ray Block, RAND Corporation



The Summit convened 187 attendees spanning entrepreneurs, university presidents, foundation leaders, Latimer Fellows, AI specialists, government officials, executives, creatives, and industry luminaries. The breadth of participation sparked meaningful dialogue and early-stage collaborations.

Lead sponsors included: Bank of America/Merrill, EmCyte, Rendeavor, and Tavo.

Watch the Highlights →

Martha's Vineyard Conclave, *Boston, MA*

Following the Summit, the Fellowship hosted its first cross-cohort conclave on Martha's Vineyard, bringing together fellows from multiple classes for an intimate, reflective experience. Hosted by Carmichael and Sandra Roberts, the gathering created space for deep introspection, trust-building, and alignment around shared values and long-term purpose.

This moment marked a turning point for the Fellowship—reinforcing its evolution from a cohort-based program into a living ecosystem rooted in relationships, reflection, and collective growth.



Latimer Crossing

In November 2025, the Fellowship's influence extended beyond programming into the built environment. Latimer Fellow, Jason Teeters attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Latimer Crossing, a new four-building, 92-unit mixed-income residential community in Fort Myers. Developed by the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers through its nonprofit arm, the Southwest Florida Housing Foundation, the project represents a major milestone in Phase I of the Greater Dunbar Initiative.

The developer shared that the Lewis Latimer Fellowship Program—and its emphasis on community-centered innovation—helped inspire the project's name, honoring Lewis Howard Latimer and his enduring legacy of ingenuity and impact. Shared community spaces within Latimer Crossing are designed to foster connection and belonging, reflecting values closely aligned with the Fellowship's mission.



The Latimer Crossing Ribbon cutting ceremony. November 2025.

2025 Accomplishments and *Momentum Toward 2026*

Strategic Partnerships & Global Expansion

In 2025, the Fellowship deepened cornerstone partnerships while exploring global opportunities aligned with its mission. The agreement with the RAND Corporation was successfully extended into 2026, including a grant from the LLFP to foster dedicated collaborations with the fellows. RAND experts have already expressed strong interest in hosting Latimer Fellows directly.

Director of Curriculum & Experiences Gordon Knox conducted extensive research into the future of artist residency models, traveling to Asia and Brazil for in-depth discussions. This work informed early exploration of a Latimer Artist Residency concept, with potential partnerships in Kenya and Ghana. Latimer advisor Glenn Singleton has offered to design a Ghana-based experience for fellows and members, expanding the Fellowship's global footprint.



Sponsorship & Partnership Development

Following the 2025 Summit, the team dedicated a majority of their time identifying new partners and supporters to fund future growth and community building.

- Advanced discussions with Arizona State University, Bank of America/Merrill, BCG, Disney, EmCyte, Lazard, Van Jones, and Visa
- Sponsor renewal intentions from Rendeavor, Tavo, and Bank of America/Merrill
- Upcoming meetings with the Ford, Andrew W. Mellon, Guggenheim, and Warhol Foundations
- Two-year pro bono legal agreement secured with Wilson Sonsini
- Potential partnership under development with HBKS, a Southwest Florida wealth management firm

Content Creation & Platform Development

- Development of an AI-powered "Lewis Latimer Twin" in collaboration with Dr. Ben Harvey of Archetypal
- Production of the first Latimer Futures concept paper for Summit sponsor EmCyte, with follow-on collaboration planned for early 2026
- Launch of the Fellowship's first interactive newsletter via Boop.me
- Growth of a curated, permission-based database of approximately 300 innovators and influencers
- Through connections at The Edison Awards, U.S. News & World Report supports the Latimer Fellows
- Connection of seven sustainability-focused fellows to Insurgent.co, including a complimentary branding workshop

Advisory Leadership & Governance Momentum

As the Fellowship looks toward 2026, strengthening governance and intellectual leadership remains a priority. In 2025, the program welcomed **Rayvon Fouché**, professor and dean at Northwestern University and former NSF Grant Administrator, to the Advisory Committee. His expertise strengthens Latimer's curriculum development, learning design, and readiness for institutional funding and grant-based partnerships, supporting responsible scale in the next phase of growth.



Rayvon Fouché

Closing Reflection— *A Year That Changed the Trajectory*

2025 will be remembered as the year the Lewis Latimer Fellowship Program came fully into its own.

What began as a bold experiment in supporting visionary leaders evolved this year into something more enduring: a trusted platform for ideas, relationships, and action. Across convenings, partnerships, fellow collaborations, and institutional foundations, the Fellowship moved with greater clarity of purpose and confidence in its role. The work was not only ambitious—it was disciplined, intentional, and grounded in values.

This year affirmed a simple but powerful truth: when exceptional people are given space to think together, build together, and lead together, the impact extends far beyond any single program or moment.

In 2025, Latimer became more than a fellowship. It became an ecosystem—one rooted in trust, sustained by community, and oriented toward long-term influence.

As the program looks ahead, it does so on firmer ground than ever before. The momentum of 2025 has established a durable foundation for what comes next—not just growth, but depth; not just scale, but meaning. The Lewis Latimer Fellowship Program enters its next chapter with gratitude for the year behind it and confidence in the future it is helping to shape.

A deep appreciation for our partners: Breakthrough Energy Ventures, Black & Veatch, The Edison Awards, Bank of America/Merrill, EmCyte, Rendeavor, and Tavo.



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Frank Bonafilia, Co-Founder
Jonathan Cropper, Co-Founder
Carmichael Roberts, Co-Founder
Tish Futrell, Program Manager
Gordon Knox, Director of Curriculum & Experiences

info@latimerfellows.com | www.latimerfellows.com

