



October 16, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies is pleased to announce a new initiative called *SAIS Women Lead*. Its mission is to increase and amplify women's leadership around the world to inspire balanced, sound policy decision-making. We welcome you to our new [website](#).

The *fruit of collaboration between alumni, friends, students, and faculty, SAIS Women Lead* brings together three existing initiatives in addition to our new curricular and professional development program:

- Curricular and Professional Development Program
- Global Women in Leadership Student Organization (GWL)
- SAIS Women's Alumni Network (SWAN)
- Women Who Inspire Lecture Series

A highlight of our new curricular and professional development program is our [practicum](#). This year, *SAIS Women Lead* students are partnering for one academic year with public and private organizations on research projects that advance women politically, economically, and socially.

In January, students will travel to Nigeria to study barriers to girls' education, and to South Asia to study the power of 'womenomics' in Bangladesh and India for **Creative Associates International, UN Women, and Equal Means Equal**. This spring, they will recommend best practices for improving access to capital and other resources for entrepreneurs from marginalized populations in Latin America and the United States to the **Inter-American Development Bank** and **Ashoka Changemakers**.



The SAIS Women Lead inaugural study trek to the 61st United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in March 2017. Participants also met with the SAIS Women's Alumni Network (SWAN) mentors in New York City.

This spring 2018, students will present their practicum research for the **Emirates Diplomatic Academy** on increasing women's leadership in diplomacy to the UAE Mission, and participate in the 62nd UN Commission on the Status of Women New York City.

Dean Vali Nasr champions women's leadership as one of the school's key development pillars, and, as part of *SAIS Women Lead*, has inaugurated the [Women of Promise Fellowship Program](#). This program welcomes women from underrepresented backgrounds and regions of the world to earn their master's degrees at Johns Hopkins SAIS and take the new curricular path. The first round of fellowships has been secured and will be available for candidates from the Asian University for Women.

It is because of all those who have devoted their creativity, teaching power, and organizational partnership to *SAIS Women Lead* that we have built a unique leadership program that prioritizes collaboration, compassion, and service to others.

We invite you to [get involved](#) by sponsoring a practicum, supporting a woman of promise fellow, becoming a mentor, or joining our SWAN master class instructors.

We look forward to welcoming you to our upcoming [events](#) and to your continued participation in our programs.

Thank you for believing in our mission.

Warm regards,

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