NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

NGFP

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

National Nuclear Security Administration Graduate Fellowship Program

ANNUAL REPORT | CLASS OF 2024–2025

NNSA National Nuclear Security Administration

U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY

Pacific Northwest NATIONAL LABORATORY

National Nuclear Security Administration

NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM CLASS OF 2024–2025

ANNUAL REPORT

COVER PHOTO

Pictured in alphabetical order: Agejo, Mikeclinton; Anazia, Chiedozie; Arana-Santiago, Juliana; Austin, Rachelle; Avila, Antonio; Baker, Laurel; Basilio-Jimenez, Daniel; Belles, Alexander; Biloiu, Irina; Borrelli, Stephen; Brager, Dominique; Brett, Kathleen; Cooper, Samantha; Dallas-Fuge, Forrest; Dominguez, Omar; Doyle, Molly Grace; Faulstich, Samantha; Frazier, Rickey; Gafner, Logan; Gardner, Jazmine; Gillispie, Stephen; Graham, Derrik; Guerrero Mendieta, Steven; Hage, Rebecca; Harris, Farrah; Hayter, Landin; Henkin, Jonathan; Herder, Jordan; Herlihy, Joseph; Hijazi, Fatiha; Hitson, Sophia; Hodgson, Catherine; Jassawalla, Burzin; Kaltreider, John; Kegley, Matthew; Kennedy, James; Khayat Kholghy, Safa; Kurland, Allison; LaFond, Matthew; Lakhwani, Viveka; LeFavour, John; Mangat, Charanjit; Martin, Jessica; Mehmood Rana, Tahir; Mueller, Benjamin; Nassar, Raneen; Ortega, Isaai; Pasquarella, Molly; Persico, Joseph; Phalen, Sarah; Quach, Nhi; Quintanilla, Gabriela; Richstein, Hannah; Riley, Hannah; Roberts, Meagan; Russell, Caroline; Salazar, Samantha; Seicianu, Jeremy; Starbuck, Drew; Stavros, Alexandra; Strawn, Isabel; Sway, Michael; Trentham, Ann; Vaughn, Hunter; and Wagner, Amelia. *(Photo by Andrea Starr | Pacific Northwest National Laboratory)*

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ACRONYMS

ALCP Aspiring Leader Certificate Program
DNN Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation
DOC Department of Commerce
DOE Department of Energy
DOS Department of State
DP Defense Programs
GMS Global Material Security
IAEA International Atomic Energy Agency
LANL Los Alamos National Laboratory
LLNL Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
LPS Laboratories, Plants, and Sites
NGFP NNSA Graduate Fellowship Program
NNSA National Nuclear Security Administration
NSE Nuclear Security Enterprise
NSS National Security Sector
PNNL Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
SNL Sandia National Laboratories
URM University Relationship Managers

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), we are committed to developing a skilled, professional workforce to protect our nation. The NNSA Graduate Fellowship Program (NGFP) has supported NNSA's missions for 29 years.

NGFP hires, trains, and retains talented students who are the next generation of national security leaders. Since its humble beginnings of three Fellows to today's more than 60 Fellows each year, NGFP continues to be an institutional talent pipeline and leadership continuum for the Nuclear Security Enterprise.

In this annual report, we highlight the Fellows of the Class of 2024–2025 and their many accomplishments. You'll find this year's report an informative showcase of how NGFP builds our nation's future leaders.

Thank you to our stakeholders, who have supported NGFP and shown their commitment to serve and uphold the values of this long-standing program, especially as we approach NGFP's 30th anniversary with the Class of 2025–2026. Additionally, I would like to thank our NNSA and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) teams for their hard work and dedication to the mission and to NGFP. Their passion and belief in the Class of 2024–2025 cohort are some of the key reasons for the Fellows' success.

We look forward to celebrating NGFP's 30th milestone with all of you, who have championed NGFP, our Fellows, and their continued impact on the national security sector!

Jennifer Kline
Chief Learning Officer
National Nuclear Security Administration

MISSION

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Graduate Fellowship Program (NGFP) identifies and develops the next generation of exceptional national security leaders to achieve NNSA's mission: Strengthening our nation through nuclear security.

VISION

NGFP aims to be the United States government's model program for developing and retaining top-level national security leadership talent.

IMPACT

During their one-year assignments, Fellows gain unmatched experience through the following:

- Real-world immersion in national security, technology, and policy
- Relationships with leading national security experts
- Hands-on experience in NNSA
- Professional growth, networking, and leadership development opportunities worldwide.

The NGFP Class of 2024–2025 continued the tradition of leaving its mark on the Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE). Their fellowship started in Richland, Washington, and culminated in Washington, D.C., symbolizing the range and depth of their experiences during their one-year assignment.

This year's annual report showcases the activities from Orientation, held on the PNNL campus (shown in cover photo), to the Closing Ceremony. Program activities spanned outreach to potential applicants in the spring of 2023 through supporting fellowship assignments that ended in June 2025.

HIRING

From a pool of 333 applicants, NNSA, Department of Commerce (DOC), and Department of State (DOS) personnel selected more than 198 candidates and conducted more than 500 virtual interviews. The total number of applicants increased 40 percent compared to the previous year and is the highest number to date.

The Class of 2024–2025 represented 65 Fellows from 37 universities, who supported more than 40 NNSA program, functional, and field offices, in addition to DOS and DOC offices. At the start of the fellowship, 69 percent of the Fellows had completed a master's-level degree, with 17 percent in progress, while 11 percent had doctoral degrees, with 3 percent in progress. Their educational background included a range of technical and policy backgrounds.

Supporting their offices, the Fellows gained hands-on experience contributing to various technical and policy mission needs across NSE.

The Aspiring Leader Certificate Program (ALCP) and National Security Events were held August 13–16, 2024, in Washington, D.C. During the National Security Event, Fellows took part in leadership and professional development trainings and toured the State Department, the National and Nuclear Risk Reduction Center, and the Remote Sensing Laboratory. (*Photos by U.S. Department of Energy)*

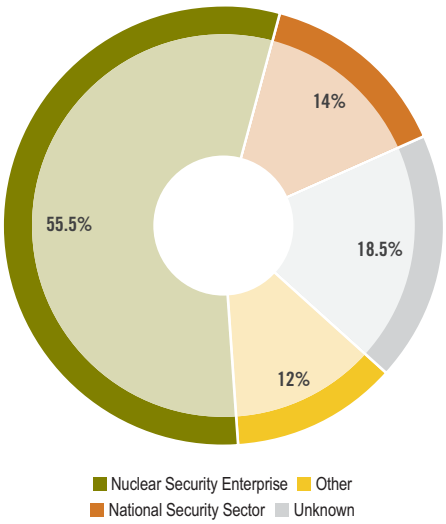
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Fellows connected virtually and in person with national security counterparts around the world for training, networking, and professional development.

During their one-year assignments, the Fellows learned from experts across the NSE and made valuable programmatic contributions, including the following:

- Supporting technical exchanges, strategic initiatives, and collaboration with our national security stakeholders, both locally and abroad
- Developing important communications for NNSA leaders, including briefing materials, press releases, and correspondence
- Participating in key working groups
- Providing technical assistance and oversight support for sites like Los Alamos, Oak Ridge, and Savannah River
- Aiding in life-cycle cost estimates, technical assessments, and important acquisition and project management tasks
- Assisting with coordination of annual program reviews at NNSA's supported laboratories, plants, and sites (LPS) to discuss and address changes in office policy, procedures, risks, foreign engagements, partnerships, and collaboration with industry.

NNSA leadership addressed NGFP Fellows completing the Aspiring Leader Certificate Program (ALCP) and National Security Events, August 13–16, 2024, in Washington, D.C. During the National Security Event, Fellows took part in leadership and professional development trainings and toured the State Department, the National and Nuclear Risk Reduction Center, and the Remote Sensing Laboratory.



Post-Fellowship Employment

Graph showing the Class of 2024–2025 post-fellowship employment type. Upon completing the fellowship program, approximately 70 percent of the Fellows pursued employment with ties to national security. In this graph, NSE represents Fellows hired by the Department of Energy (DOE), national laboratories, and DOE/NNSA contractors; National Security Sector represents Fellows who accepted employment with other national security stakeholders; and Other represents Fellows who returned to academia or whose employment was unavailable at the time of publication.

To learn more about NGFP or to view this report online, visit the website: ***www.pnnl.gov/projects/ngfp.***

LEADERSHIP AND MISSION IMPACT

In May 2025, NNSA leadership, staff at PNNL, supervisors, mentors, and key stakeholders celebrated the Fellows from the Class of 2024–2025 who completed the fellowship. Approximately 70 percent of the class accepted offers within the National Security Sector (NSS). This remains a positive trend in our programmatic outputs, with about 85 percent of our 800+ alumni having exited our fellowship into positions with ties to national security.

LOOKING FORWARD

In June 2025, the NGFP Class of 2025–2026 became the 30th cohort of the program and the first to include post-bachelor's Fellows. These 72 Fellows were hand-selected from a pool of more than 650 applicants and nearly 520 virtual interviews, again breaking the record for application numbers.

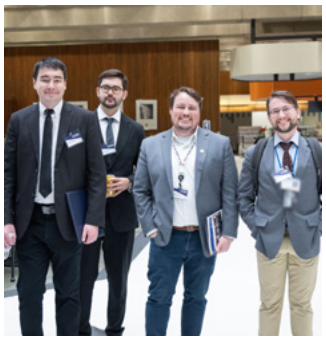
Photo by Andrea Starr | Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Photo by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

FELLOWS AND THEIR MISSION IMPACT

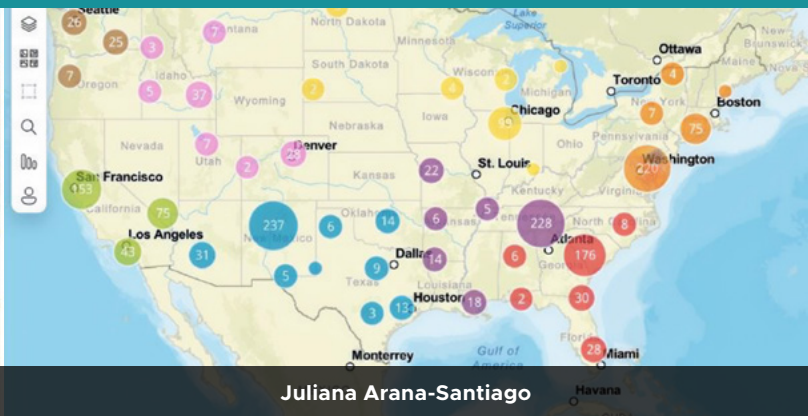
Fellows supported their offices across NNSA, DOC, and DOS. They also used their allotted travel and training funds to participate in events, trainings, and international meetings with their offices.

The following are highlights from fellows' assignments. For more information, see the fellows' posters from the closing ceremony that are available online at **https://www.pnnl.gov/sites/default/files/media/file/24-25-Closing-Ceremony-Posters-Final.pdf**.



The NGFP Closing Ceremony and Alumni Reception welcomed hundreds of participants, including Fellows, their supervisors, mentors, and alumni. *Photos by Donica Payne | Department of Energy*

Mikeclinton Agejo



Juliana Arana-Santiago

Select photos are provided by the Fellows and correspond to their summaries.

Mikeclinton Agejo, NV-NV Nevada Field Office, conducted comprehensive safety walkdowns and risk assessments at nuclear facilities, supporting Emergency Management Oversight. He helped ensure high-risk operations adhered to safety protocols and regulatory requirements, strengthening the site's preparedness and directly enhancing our ability to respond to emergencies.

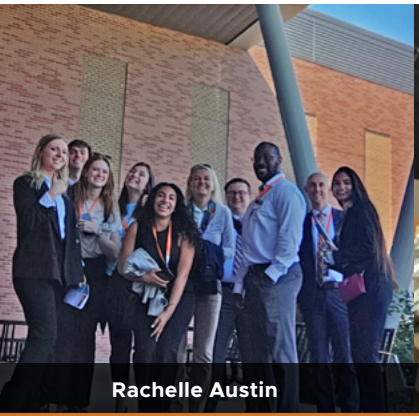
Dozie Anazia, NA-71 Safeguards & Security, proposed a methodology to implement AI into the government enterprise. He wrote a comprehensive testing and evaluation plan on how computer vision algorithms would improve the office's video management systems.

Juliana Arana-Santiago, NA-84 Office of Nuclear Incident Response, led the design of a Power-BI-based visual aid to analyze asset utilization across exercises and operations. It aims to increase data transparency, ensuring real-time accessibility for better planning and execution.

Rachelle Austin, NA-242 Office of Nuclear Export Controls, managed and performed export control reviews of Foreign Engagement Proposals with DOE laboratories and supported interagency licensing adjudication meetings. She performed technical reviews of dual-use export licenses in support of national security. These efforts helped to improve national security by preventing the proliferation of nuclear and dual-use technology using export controls.

Laurel Baker, NA-10 Front Office, Deputy Administrator's Action Group, translated subject matter experts' technical insights into strategic communications packages, meeting due-outs, high-profile correspondence items, and other deliverables for interagency/policy audiences and industry stakeholders. Highlights included reviews and inputs for the annual Stockpile Responsiveness Program Report; Nuclear Deterrence Summit; laboratories, plants, and sites (LPS) Voice of the Customer sessions, NNSA leadership LPS visits, El Capitan rollout, and NNSA Innovation Day.

Daniel Basilio-Jimenez, NA-95 Los Alamos Acquisition and Project Management Office, worked closely with experienced federal project directors and engineers on large-scale project delivery. He provided engineering expertise that supported risk-informed decision-making, cost and schedule analysis, and

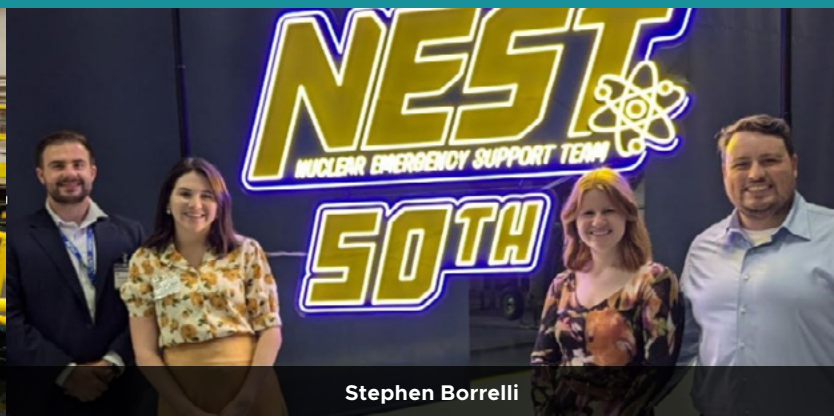


Rachelle Austin

Laurel Baker

Daniel Basilio-Jimenez

Alex Belles



Stephen Borrelli

technical reviews, which ultimately helped keep projects aligned with performance baselines and mission objectives.

Alex Belles, NA-113 Office of Experimental Sciences, led a report providing a high-level overview of the inertial confinement fusion program. This report looks at the future of the program following the breakthrough of fusion ignition in 2022. This work will aid in communicating with internal stakeholders about the importance of the inertial confinement fusion program in supporting the mission of nuclear deterrence through the delivery of a safe, secure, and reliable stockpile.

Stephen Borrelli, NA-COMM Office of Communications, led the execution of enterprise-wide public notifications regarding issues including M&O contract extensions, National Environmental Policy Act actions, weapons modernization programs, and NNSA reports. He also successfully transferred the Nuclear Nexus platform from Idaho National Laboratory's website to NNSA's, streamlining access and enhancing user experience across the enterprise.

Samantha Cooper, NA-212 Office of Radiological Security, focused on strengthening bilateral relationships between the United States and foreign partners in the Middle East, North Africa, and Republic of South Africa to strengthen radiological security. One project was being a member of the office's delegation to the Bilateral Engagement Meeting between the Libyan Atomic Energy Establishment (Libyan/U.S. Bilateral Cooperation Program Committee) and Global Material Security (GMS), which reestablished bilateral relations between GMS and the Libyan regulatory authority.

Forrest Dallas-Fuge, NA-81 Office of Nuclear Incident Policy and Cooperation, supported the NNSA Ukraine Task Force, as well as projects including overseeing the creation of a Radiological Response Handbook for use by emergency responders. He assisted with efforts to train, equip, exercise, and ultimately improve the capabilities of responders around the world.

Omar Dominguez, NA-SN Sandia Field Office, worked on the Laboratory Directed Research and Development Program and engaged in multiple weapons efforts, overseeing daily activities, and collaborated on various Sandia National Laboratories projects. He collaborated

Molly Grace Doyle

Sam Faulstich


Samantha Cooper


Forrest Dallas-Fuge


Omar Dominguez

with NNSA program managers to enhance program readiness and resolve complex cross-laboratory activities.

Molly Grace Doyle, NA-183 Office of Strategic Planning and Analysis, was the lead integrator on the Stockpile Research, Technology, and Engineering chapter of the Stockpile Stewardship Management Plan. As the leader on the Defense Programs Getting the Job Done List, she facilitated a meeting between the Acting Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs with the Associate Principal Deputy Administrator.

Sam Faulstich, NA-LL Livermore Field Office, was embedded with the National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), contributing to cutting-edge scientific knowledge in atmospheric transport. They combined several atmospheric modeling tools to provide updated estimates of fallout dispersion that were then compared to historical records of atmospheric testing in the 1950s.

Rickey Frazier, NA-122.2 Office of Stockpile Sustainment/Ballistic Missile Weapons Division, supported daily operations and documentation processes for the Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles, and U.K. teams. He developed charters to improve communication and clarity on specific topics under the Mutual Defense Agreement, ensuring alignment among stakeholders and enhancing collaboration.

Logan Gafner, NA-192.5 Lithium Modernization Program, worked on a variety of independent projects within the program to support lithium processing, technology maturation, and a potential lithium processing facility.

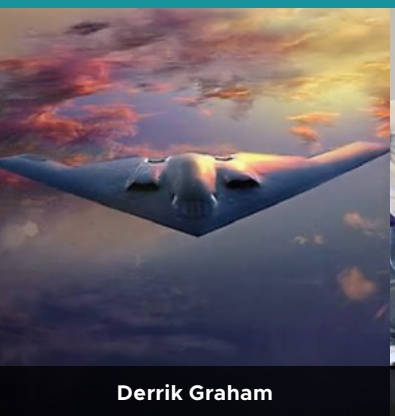
Jazmine Gardner, NA-181 Office of Policy and Requirements, contributed to Weapons Activities Risk Management by helping plan and execute biannual risk summits, which foster cross-communication, information sharing, and leadership engagement. She also helped author the workforce development chapter of the Stockpile Stewardship and Management Plan, which analyzes workforce trends and challenges.

Brett Gillispie, NA-CI Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, arranged and facilitated meetings between NA-212 and local


Rickey Frazier


Logan Gafner

Jazmine Gardner



Derrik Graham

Steven Guerrero

Becca Hage

Farrah Harris

municipal governments to brief them on the program and gain their support to encourage local facilities to participate in the Cesium Irradiator Replacement Program.

Derrik Graham, NA-122.3 Air-Delivered Systems, assisted the surveillance team, supported specific weapon systems, worked on special projects, and presented at the NA-12 Budget Summit.

Steven Guerrero, NA-192.4 Depleted Uranium Modernization, was focused on overseeing the General Manufacturing Modernization portfolio, where holistic and risk-based management strategies led to successful manufacturing capabilities in support of the weapons delivery mission.

Becca Hage, NA-40 Office of Emergency Management, worked with the Readiness Assurance Team and supported the development of an annual report, internal site fact sheets, standard operating procedures, and the Emergency Readiness Assurance Plan form.

Farrah Harris, NA-10.1 Technology & Partnerships Office, managed the production of the 2025 Technology Transfer calendar. For the Technology Transfer program, she supported foreign engagements and reviews of the LPS. For the Planetary Defense program, she authored and delivered briefs and contributed to strengthening risk mitigation strategies for the planetary defense efforts.

Landin Hayter, NA-241 Office of International Nuclear Safeguards, attended a Fundamentals of Nondestructive Assay course at Los Alamos National Laboratory for various state regulatory authority professionals from around the world. He represented his office, met the other course participants, and shared an update to his office.

JJ Henkin, U.S. Department of State, supported programs to advance the Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction's goal of promoting the safe and secure deployment of novel small modular nuclear reactor technologies under the highest standards of nonproliferation in Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Philippines, and across the western hemisphere.

Jordan Herder, NA-191.2 Savannah River Site Plutonium Modernization, used his technical background to prepare briefing materials and

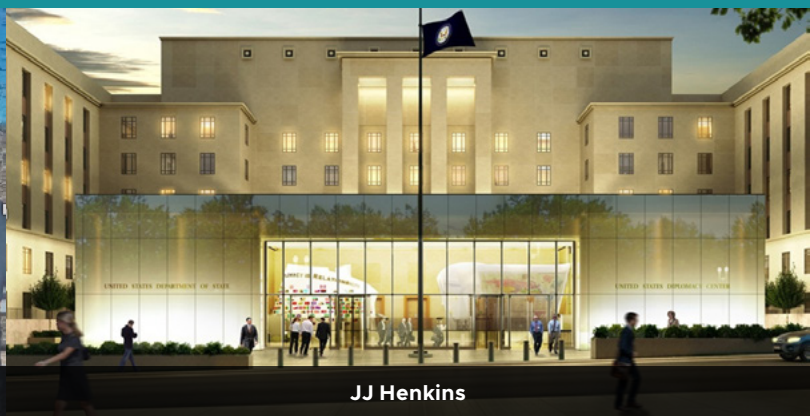
Joseph Herlihy

Fatiha Hijazi

Sophie Hitson

Catherine Hodgson

Landin Hayter



JJ Henkins

speak to various aspects of the pit production mission, including resources needed to establish pit production capability.

Joseph Herlihy, NA-1.1 Office of Policy and Strategic Planning, helped advance NNSA missions by supporting strategic assessments, cross-cutting studies, and rapid-response analyses that enhance NNSA's anticipatory and resilient approaches to nuclear security challenges.

Fatiha Hijazi, NA-213 Nuclear Smuggling Detection and Deterrence, assisted program foreign affairs specialists to oversee program activities including project management, equipment deployment, testing and acceptance, and capacity building for partner countries in the Baltics, Southeast Asia, and Central Asia.

Sophie Hitson, NA-243 Office of Nuclear Verification, developed an exercise inspection plan and created a dashboard to support project management for a monitoring and verification scenario at LLNL, which was hosted by her office.

Catherine Hodgson, NA-1.1 Office of Policy and Strategic Planning, contributed to various strategic planning projects to enhance enterprise-wide coordination that included the Enterprise Blueprint, Collaboration Initiative, and Integrated Strategic Priorities List.

Buzz Jassawalla, NA-234 Office of Program Support, supported his office in the following key areas: briefings preparation, tracking taskers, reviewing/editing budget-related deliverables, and monitoring Congressional language.

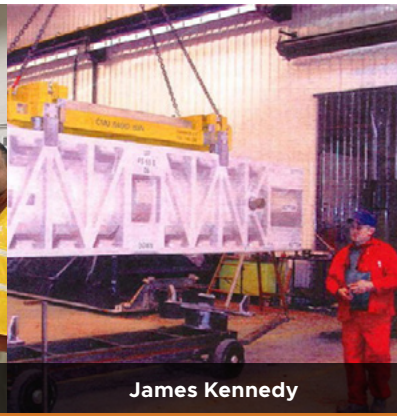
Jack Kaltreider, NA-232 Office of Nuclear Material Removal and Elimination, was tasked with managing the collaboration between the Savannah River National Laboratory, NNSA HQ, and an international partner on the Mobile Melt-Consolidate (MMC) project. His work on MMC culminated with the observation of the first small-scale melt using radioactive material at the partner's facility.

Matthew Kegley, NA-84 Office of Nuclear Incident Response, helped modelers develop and partially operationalize the ALGE3D software for nuclear emergency scenarios. ALGE3D was used in Cobalt Magnet 2025, NNSA's largest exercise series, for information requests. ALGE3D represents a new capability for NNSA's response to nuclear scenarios.

Buzz Jassawalla

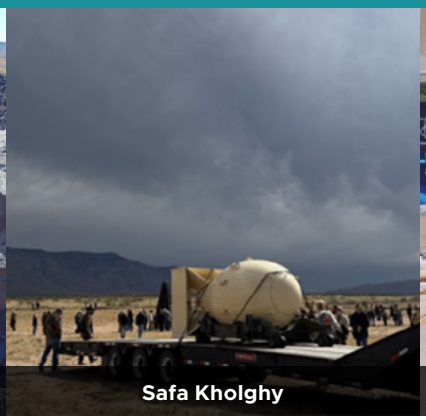
Jack Kaltreider

Matthew Kegley



James Kennedy

Jordan Herder



Safa Kholghy

Matthew LaFond

James Kennedy, NA-ESH-11 Packaging and Transportation Division, assisted with researching and evaluating multiple packaging and transportation options for the removal of the mixed oxide (MOX) fuel. This included reviewing the historical documentation for the FS-65 container to determine its capability as a transportation option.

Safa Kholghy, NA-PAS Office of Partnership and Acquisition Services, assisted the team by analyzing interagency agreements. She created a presentation on management and operating contracts for the workforce to understand how and why the NNSA operates the way it does.

Ally Kurland, IN-15 Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence, Energy Security Division, helped further analysis on important energy topics and issues that align with national security objectives. She was able to author her own products, assist coworkers on regional portfolios, and attend meetings across the intelligence community and with senior officials.

Matthew LaFond, NA-10.2 Office of International Programs, served as the primary contact for his office in an international, cross-laboratory effort to overhaul the video teleconference tracking system. He also helped coordinate the planning, logistics, and execution for major events, such as a cross-laboratory Operational Workshop and the Complex Orientation Program, a joint U.S.-U.K. development program for midcareer professionals in the NSE.

Viveka "V" Lakhwani, NA-772 Office of Security Operations and Special Security Programs, surveyed and received feedback from NNSA sites regarding Insider Threat programmatics. This information has been utilized in discussions with senior executives, Assistant Managers of Safeguards and Security, and leadership in various offices.

Jack LeFavour, NA-23 Office of Material Management and Minimization (M3), managed the coordination of time-sensitive daily requests and tasks from DOE/NNSA senior leadership, Congressional Affairs, and Public Affairs. He also helped lead the preparation of M3's strategic planning off-site event.

Ben Mueller

Joey Persico

Nhi Quach

Viveka "V" Lakhwani


Jack LeFavour

Tahir Mehmood Rana

Tahir Mehmood Rana, NA-LA Los Alamos Field Office, supported the NA-LA Field Office Mission Assurance & Infrastructure Environmental program to ensure compliance of the regulatory site and support stockpile sustainment and modernization in a safe, compliant, and efficient manner.

Ben Mueller, NA-114 Advanced Simulation and Computing (ASC), drafted a technical road map for his office and engaged with the editing, review, and revision process. It gave him insight into the unique culture of each laboratory, plant, and site, necessitating a tailored approach to each unique challenge.

Raneen Nassar, NA-242 Office of Nuclear Export Controls (ONEC), participated in international engagements and provided ongoing implementation support to the International Nonproliferation Export Control Program Director and country project managers, including attending interagency and internal NNSA meetings and contributing to event planning, logistics, and coordination.

Isaai Ortega, NA-MB-812 Defense Programs Resource and Matrix Team, worked on the Committee on Foreign Investments in the United States, supporting NA-183 Office of Strategic Planning & Analysis. He analyzed multiple billion-dollar foreign acquisitions of U.S. companies to address strategic-level gaps and risks in the supply chain across the NSE.

Joey Persico, NA-233 Office of Plutonium Disposition, was selected as the lead support contractor for both the Strategic Laboratory Assessment (SLA) project and Advanced Recovery and Integrated Extraction System for plutonium oxide conversion at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). As SLA lead support contractor, he led the team through the completion and handover of several products designed for the Surplus Plutonium Disposition program.

Nhi Quach, NA-LL Livermore Field Office, conducted hands-on research within the Materials Science Division at LLNL. She created a part, wrote standard operating procedures, and gained a better understanding of how polymers are a part of the NSE.

Gabriela Quintanilla, NA-233 Office of Plutonium Disposition, supported the tasker process, developed both tracking and communication processes, and served as the primary

Gabriela Quintanilla


Hannah Richstein

Meagan Roberts

Caroline Russell

Samantha Salazar

action officer for the office. She also managed multiple technical programs, gaining deeper familiarity with program management and technical concepts.

Hannah Richstein, NA-MB-92 Office of Analysis and Evaluation, supported two of the four sub-offices. Working with the Office of Studies and Decision Analyses, she contributed to Business Case Analyses for two different offices in Defense Programs. Within the Office of Enterprise Data and Modeling, she explored cost growth by Work Breakdown Structure element, using Earned Value Management data.

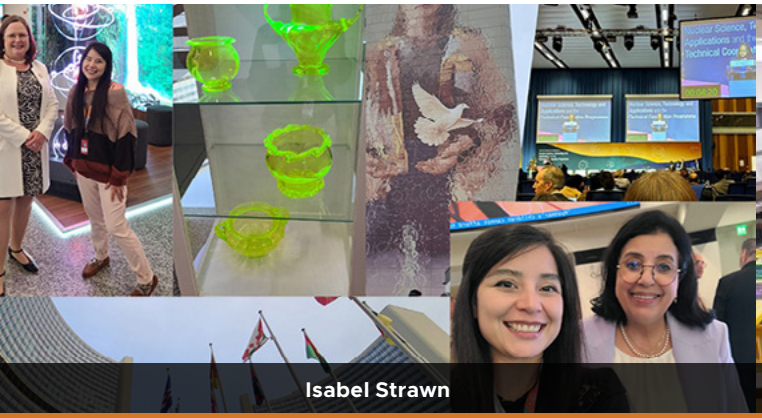
Meagan Roberts, NA-1.1 Office of Strategic Partnerships and Engagements, organized and moderated six technical presentations from affiliated SPP offices within the enterprise LPS. For the office annual two-day, in-person meeting, she led the creation of the agenda, organized a space, and coordinated with speakers and participants to produce an informative review of office goals, procedures, and future priorities.

Caroline Russell, NA-20 Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, worked with colleagues from NA-20 program offices, NA-10, Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), LANL, and the U.S. Department of State to develop an agenda and policy materials and to coordinate logistics for the visit from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Committee on Proliferation to SNL and LANL.

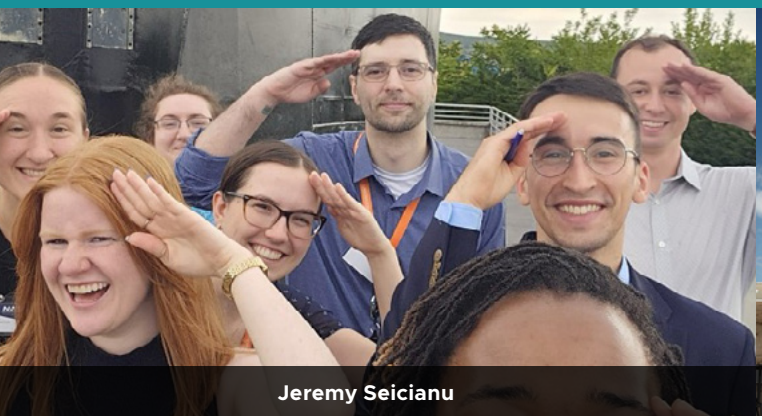
Samantha Salazar, NA-122.1 Stockpile Services Division, supported the creation of a new program, Weapons Engineering and Advanced Virtual Education, which aims to expand its scope beyond NNSA by integrating participation from all weapons design laboratories to participate in a space where knowledge is shared for preservation of nuclear weapons information.

Jeremy Seicianu, NA-1.3 Office of Cost Estimating and Program Evaluation, worked on five different integration areas for the office, including fusion, non-nuclear manufacturing, and nuclear nonproliferation.

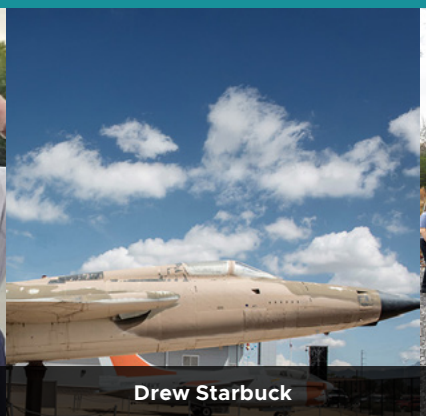
Drew Starbuck, NA-10 Defense Program's Deputy Administrator's Action Group (DAAG), helped to organize and prepare for a trip with NA-20, Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, to the national laboratories, with delegates from the NATO Arms Control, Disarmament, and WMD Nonproliferation Group.


Isabel Strawn


Michael Sway



Jeremy Seicianu



Drew Starbuck

Alexandra Stavros

Alexandra Stavros, NA-21 Office of Global Material Security (GMS), coordinated tasks between GMS programs and the Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation; addressed inquiries related to nuclear and radiological security and counter-nuclear smuggling from various stakeholders, including senior leaders and Congress; and supported cooperation with multilateral organizations critical to the GMS mission.

Isabel Strawn, NA-1 Immediate Office of the Administrator, provided support in the review and preparation of read-ahead materials for the Administrator. She tracked open and current action items to ensure materials were submitted in a timely manner for inclusion in the Administrator's briefing book.

Michael Sway, NA-231 Office of Reactor Conversion and Uranium Supply, worked on projects throughout the office with a large focus on international conversion and domestic Molybdenum (Mo-99) production. He drafted briefing materials, provided input for deliverables, coordinated with other offices and agencies, and tracked deliverables and program costing.

Annie Trentham, NA-24 Office of Nonproliferation and Arms Control, attended a variety of workshops, meetings, and opportunities (such as a Nonproliferation and Peaceful Uses Workshop, Nonproliferation Seminars on weapons design and the fuel cycle at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Nevada National Security Site, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory), and small group meetings with high-level DOE and industry experts.

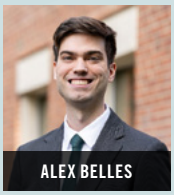
Hunter Vaughn, NA-193.3 High Explosives and Energetics – Production Modernization, helped update the user interface/user experience and data governance of the knowledge management platform, redesigned production schedules, and learned about agile manufacturing processes at the design laboratories.

Amelia Wagner, NA-212 Office of Radiological Security, engaged with a team of over 20 people nationwide to support the implementation of a strategic review of the domestic protection portfolio, including updates to communications, private-public partnerships, and programmatic strategy. She presented the progress to over 200 people at a yearly program review and to over 50 people at a department-level meeting with senior leadership.

Annie Trentham

Hunter Vaughn

Amelia Wagner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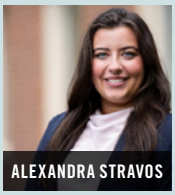
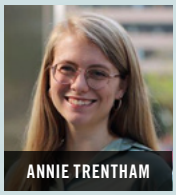

ALEXANDRA STRAVOS


ALLY KURLAND


AMELIA WAGNER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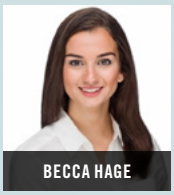
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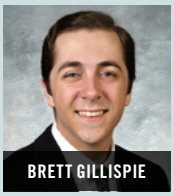
BEN MUELLER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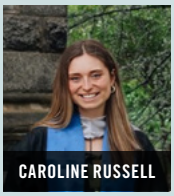
BUZZ JASSAWALLA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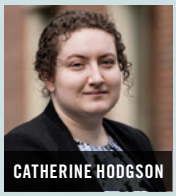
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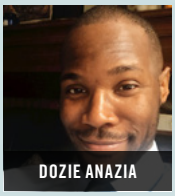
DANIEL BASILIO JIMENEZ


DERRIK GRAHAM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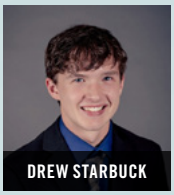
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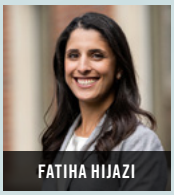
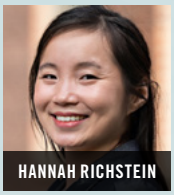
FARRAH HARRIS


FATIHA HIJAZI


FORREST DALLAS FUGE


GABRIELA QUINTANILLA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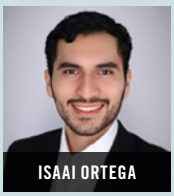
HUNTER VAUGHN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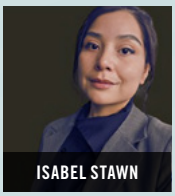
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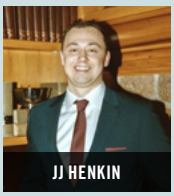
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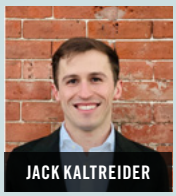
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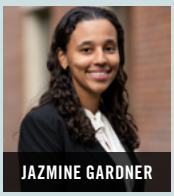
JAMES KENNEDY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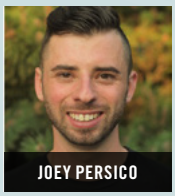
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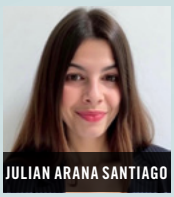
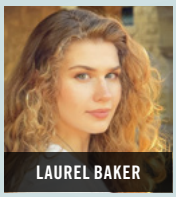
JORDAN HERDER


JOSEPH HERLIHY


JULIAN ARANA SANTIAGO


LANDIN HAYTER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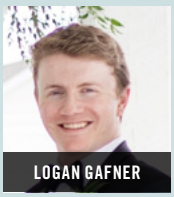
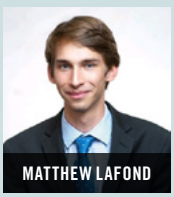

LOGAN GAFNER


MATTHEW KEGLEY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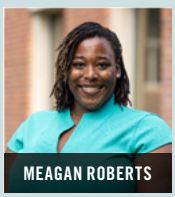
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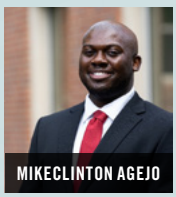
MICHAEL SWAY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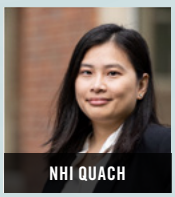
MOLLY GRACE DOYLE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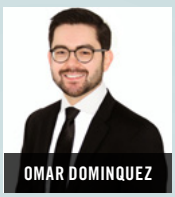
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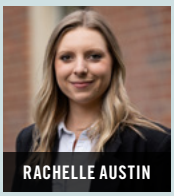
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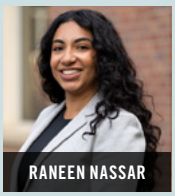
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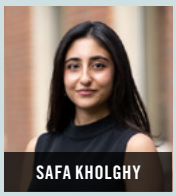
RICKEY FRAZIER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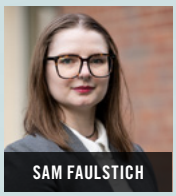
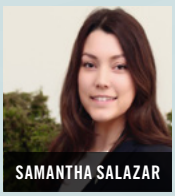

SAM FAULSTICH


SAMANTHA COOPER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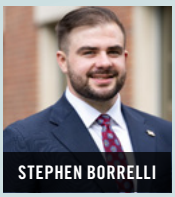
SOPHIE HITSON


STEPHEN BORRELLI


STEVEN GUERRERO


TAHIR MEHMOOD RANA


VIVEKA LAKHWANI

Photo by Donica Payne | Department of Energy

HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

NGFP conducted outreach to universities nationwide to connect with eligible students interested in national security careers.

OUTREACH

The strategy for recruiting the Class of 2024–2025 focused on rebuilding relationships that were fully virtual during pandemic travel restrictions; encouraging University Relationship Managers to continue building relationships with university professors, advisors, leadership, and graduate career centers; and building an ambassador program to utilize existing stakeholders' networks to promote the fellowship opportunity.

The results of these efforts include the following successes.

- NGFP University Relationship Managers executed 87 events with 71 university partners. Additionally, the outreach team identified 6 universities as possible future partners.
- From an applicant pool of 333, a final class of 65 Fellows was hired, 88 percent of which came from university partners.

The Class of 2024–2025 outreach cycle was successful because University Relationship Managers built relationships with on-campus points of contact to connect directly with students. Moving forward, NGFP will continue to utilize a hybrid approach, relying on professors to build an in-person audience while opening a virtual component to the wider university network.

LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Aspiring Leader Certificate Program

Fellows participated in NNSA's Aspiring Leader Certificate Program (ALCP)—focused on providing Fellows with foundational exposure to leadership skills and competencies that are essential for individual and organizational success. This structured curriculum engages participants in a variety of learning activities that include virtual and classroom training, development opportunities, senior leader interviews, and shadow assignments that prepared Fellows to add value to their organization and the success of the federal workforce.

National Security Enterprise Event

Fellows attended the NSE event, which included tours of DOS and Remote Sensing Laboratory; leadership panels with program alumni; and briefings on nuclear science, U.S. Congress, and the federal budget.

Throughout the year, Fellows also participated in a variety of learning and development sessions with national security stakeholders and NGFP alumni.

Career Development Workshop and Career Fair

Fellows participated in career development events during the fellowship to prepare them with the skills and perspectives needed to pursue their post-fellowship career.

Held in Washington, D.C., the January events were designed to help Fellows connect with leaders from across the NSS and gain career advice for succeeding in the field of national security.

The Career Development Workshop featured a suite of presentations and panels about navigating, negotiating, and networking in NSE.

Photo by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

The two-day event culminated in the NGFP Career Fair, with more than 20 organizations representing the federal government, NNSA contractors, national laboratories, and nongovernmental organizations to connect Fellows with potential employment opportunities.

Trainings, Workshops, and Conferences

While deepening their understanding of NSE, Fellows enhanced their skills and networks through conferences, training, and other events. Below is a sampling of those opportunities.

- 2024 Workshop on Storage and Transportation of TRISO and Metal Spent Nuclear Fuels
- Advisory Committee for Nuclear Security (ACNS) Meeting
- Nuclear Emergency Support Team (NEST) 50th Anniversary Ceremony
- Nuclear Deterrence Summit 2025
- Proliferation Security Initiative Interagency Meeting
- World Institute for Nuclear Security Virtual Workshop: Exploring the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Strengthening the Security of Nuclear Facilities

Fellows also toured national laboratories, participated in professional organizations, supported engagements with international partners, and gained a wealth of leadership development training available through NNSA's Learning Management System.

CAPSTONE EVENTS

Orientation

In June 2024, Orientation was held at the PNNL campus in Richland, Washington, for one week. Fellows had opportunities to learn about basic program operations, roles and responsibilities, policies and procedures, and expectations of the fellowship. Fellows also attended individual sessions with their team leaders, who are their line managers, to learn the best practices for succeeding in the fellowship. During the event, Fellows participated in hands-on radiological detection training at the Volpentest Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response (HAMMER) Federal Training Center.

After Richland Orientation, Fellows participated in in-person onboarding activities specific to their assigned offices. They had training sessions with NNSA managers and mentors to learn more about the NNSA mission, operations, and organization.

Closing Ceremony and Alumni Reception

Celebrating the Class of 2024–2025, the program held a Closing Ceremony and Alumni Reception that welcomed hundreds of participants, including Fellows, their supervisors, mentors, and alumni from across NSE. During the event, Fellows shared their experiences in the program, while posters highlighted their assignments during the past year. Key speakers included Teresa Robbins, former Acting Administrator of NNSA; Deb Gracio, PNNL Associate Laboratory Director for the National Security Directorate; and Kinsee Owens, NNSA Deputy Associate Administrator for Management. With this class, the NGFP alumni network grew to more than 800, spanning NNSA and the broader NSS.

Photo by Linh Truong | Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Photo by Donica Payne | Department of Energy

Photo by Donica Payne | Department of Energy

BACKGROUND AND EVOLUTION

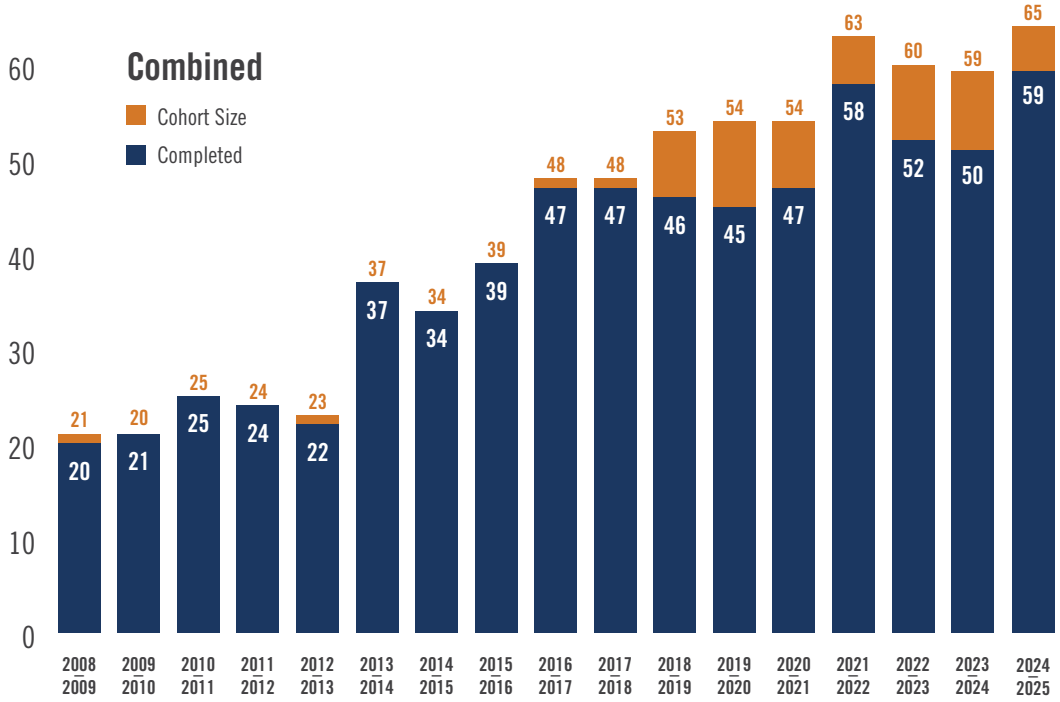
NGFP identifies and develops the next generation of exceptional national security leaders to achieve the NNSA mission: strengthening our nation through nuclear security. PNNL, a DOE national laboratory that specializes in fostering next-generation talent for national security missions, has administered NGFP on behalf of the NNSA since 2002.

As a model program within NNSA, NGFP identifies and develops exceptional future leaders through a best-in-class program management approach designed to

- Hire exceptional graduate and doctoral students from universities nationwide
- Transform and develop students into future leaders to advance NNSA and national security missions
- Provide an agile approach to meet dynamic NNSA needs.

EVOLUTION

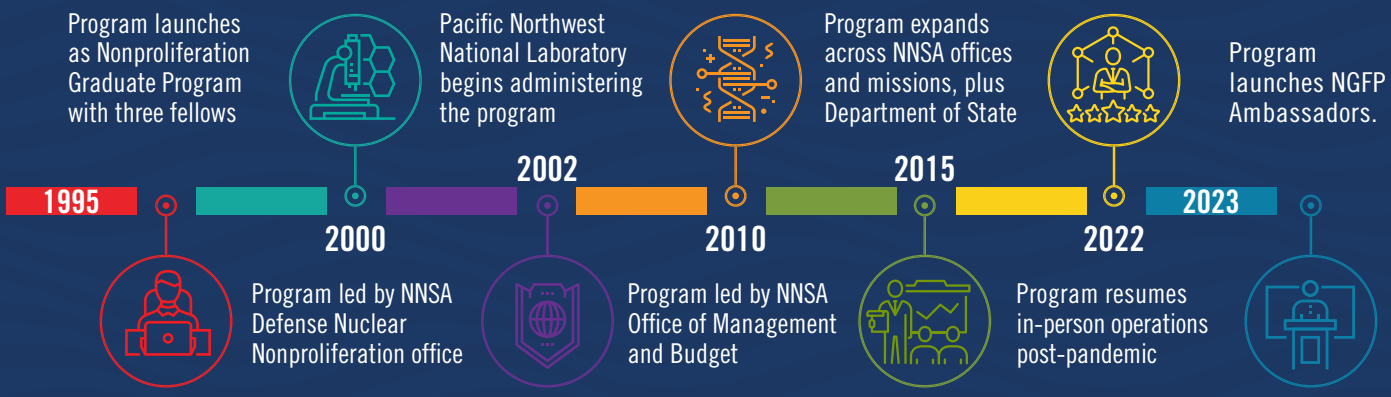
Since the program's inception in 1995, the demand for Fellows has evolved with NNSA's increasing need for leading-edge talent in various mission spaces. The program has grown from three Fellows in the inaugural class to 59 Fellows completing the program in 2025. Originally launched to serve NNSA's Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation (DNN) mission, the program now spans NSE, placing Fellows within DNN; Defense Programs; Counterterrorism and Counterproliferation; Safety, Infrastructure, and Operations; NNSA's site offices; DOC; and DOS.



NGFP class size at the start and completion of the fellowship. The program has grown from three Fellows in 1995 to 59 Fellows completing the program in 2025.

OPERATIONS

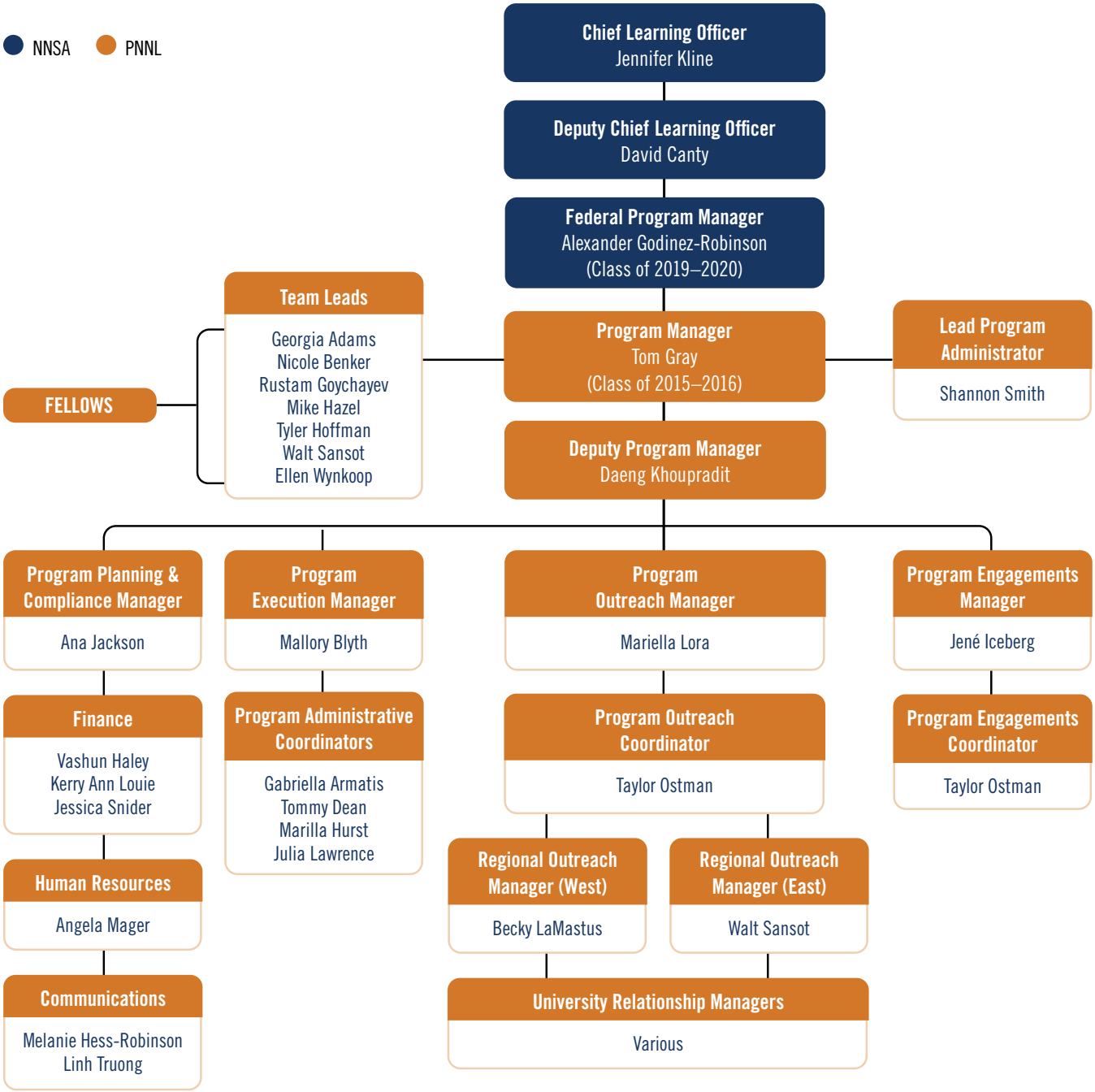
Along with general program growth, Fellows' opportunities for professional and leadership development have evolved, as well. The annual training, networking, and development agenda has expanded to include a standard suite of opportunities provided to all Fellows and unique Fellow- or office-specific training, which are made possible with Fellows' allotted travel and training funds. Each year, Fellows continue to find exciting new ways to build their skillsets to best serve their office and individual development goals.



History of NGFP. Over the years, the demand for Fellows has evolved with NNSA's increasing need for leading-edge talent in various mission spaces.

ORGANIZATION

NGFP is managed by NNSA's Office of Management and Budget (blue boxes) and administered by PNNL (gold boxes), with roles shown in the organizational chart.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

NGFP alumni are shining examples of NGFP's lasting impact to various national security missions.

NGFP remains a premier program for bringing passionate and skilled students into the NNSA and the NSE. To date, more than 85 percent of alumni have secured employment with ties to national security after their fellowship.

Maria Del Carmen Corte

Maria Del Carmen Corte (Class of 2023–2024) was selected as an Arms Control Negotiation Academy (ACONA) Fellows Class of 2025–2026: **https://www.armscontrolnegotiationacademy.org/current-fellows**.

Alexander Godinez-Robinson and Tom Gray

Alexander Godinez-Robinson (Class of 2019–2020) and **Tom Gray** (Class of 2015–2016) were featured in the NGFP 30th anniversary feature story: **https://www.pnnl.gov/news-media/launching-generation-national-security-leaders**.

Kevin Heaney

Kevin Heaney (Class of 2022–2023) was selected for "Most Inspiring Up & Comer" in this year's CyberScoop 50 awards, recognizing early career trailblazers on track to become the cybersecurity leaders of tomorrow: **https://cyberscoop.com/cyberscoop50/winners/**.

Cyrus Jabbari

Cyrus Jabbari (Class of 2021–2022) was named the Chief Data Officer for Central Command (CENTCOM) at the Department of Defense.

Christopher Landers

Christopher Landers (Class of 2005–2006) announced as the new Director of the Office of Isotope Research and Development (R&D) and Production: **https://www.isotopes.gov/Welcome-Chris-Landers**.

Caroline Russell

Caroline Russell (Class of 2024–2025) was selected as a Nuclear Scholars Initiative for the Class of 2025: **https://nuclearnetwork.csis.org/programs/nuclear-scholars-initiative/class-of-2025/**.

Wendin Smith

Wendin Smith (Class of 1999–2000) commemorated the 50th anniversary of NNSA's Nuclear Emergency Support Team (NEST), focused on tackling the U.S. government's biggest response challenges involving radiological or nuclear materials: **https://www.energy.gov/nnsa/articles/nnsa-celebrating-50-years-nuclear-emergency-support-team-nest**.

NGFP CLASS OF 2024–2025 BY THE NUMBERS

- **71** University Partners
- **333** Applicants
- **198** Candidates Interviewed
- **500+** Interviews
- **40+** Different Program, Functional, and Field Offices Supported (plus DOC and DOS)
- **65** Fellows Started the Program
- **59** Fellows Completed the Program
- **34%** Fellows with Technical Backgrounds
- **54%** Fellows with Policy Backgrounds
- **70%** Fellows Accepted Positions Tied to National Security
- **800+** Alumni

Learn about the NNSA Graduate Fellowship Program online at
http://www.pnnl.gov/projects/ngfp

Program Administered by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

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