NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Graduate Fellowship Program

ANNUAL REPORT

CLASS OF 2025–2026



National Nuclear Security Administration

U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY

Pacific Northwest NATIONAL LABORATORY

NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM CLASS OF 2025–2026

ANNUAL REPORT

COVER PHOTO

Pictured (listed in alphabetical order): Ahrend, Elijah; Aldama, Edgar; Alvarado, Francisco; Anderson, Katelyn; Askew, Takara; Bates, Abby; Becerra, Luis; Blanco, Andrea; Bock, Isabelle; Bryant, Victoria; Carrera, Anahi; Chandler, Bridgid; Christie, Josh; Ciprian, Elodia; Cook, Josh; Cutright, Jeremiah; Desrosier, Vaneza; Drury, Arch; El-Abd, Samer; Falk, Grant; Fernandez, Isaias; Galvan, Vince; Garcia, Adrian; Garcia, Jonathan; Girone, Dylan; Gonzales, Lucas; Gravitt, Lizzie; Harris, Emily; Hart, Amanda; Hausman, Katie; Heatherly, Tanner; Henning, Joseph; Hernandez, Stephen; Higgins, Levko; Jaramillo, Adriana; Jones, Zarina; Jordan, Laura; Le, Huy; Linares, Andy; Link, Jessica; Lu, David; Lumogdang, Melissa; Mafi, Adam; Maloney, Luke; McClean, Jaha; McCracken, Matthew; Moin, Amber; Molinari, Lexa; Moreno, Jenna; Murphy, Seamus; Myers, Alex; Naw, Emmy; Newsome, Chantel; Norris, Jake; Patlan, Fernando; Pedigo, Derek; Peters, Gordon; Purgiel, Bryce; Radice, Luke; Reed, DJ; Ruth, Ryan; Savarin, Marco; Shapovalov, Altan; Sharp, Dylan; Sippel, Jesse; Slotkin, Zachary; Stanley, Jackson; Vemuri, Akhila; Walker, Kaley; Wolken, Jordan; Wood, Natasha; and Zervos, Eleni. (*Photo by Andrea Starr | Pacific Northwest National Laboratory)*

DISCLAIMER

This report was prepared as an account of work sponsored by an agency of the United States Government. Neither the United States Government nor any agency thereof, nor Battelle Memorial Institute, nor any of their employees, makes **any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights.** Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government or any agency thereof, or Battelle Memorial Institute. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government or any agency thereof.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL LABORATORY
operated by
BATTELLE
for the
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
under Contract DE-AC05-76RL01830

Printed in the United States of America

Available to DOE and DOE contractors from the
Office of Scientific and Technical Information,
P.O. Box 62, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-0062;
ph: (865) 576-8401
fax: (865) 576-5728
email: reports@osti.gov

Available to the public from the National Technical Information Service
5301 Shawnee Rd., Alexandria, VA 22312
ph: (800) 553-NTIS (6847)
email: orders@ntis.gov <https://www.ntis.gov/about>
Online ordering: http://www.ntis.gov

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS 4

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 5

FELLOWS AND THEIR MISSION IMPACT 10

HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES 21

BACKGROUND AND EVOLUTION 26

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS 28

NGFP CLASS OF 2025–2026 BY THE NUMBERS 31

ACRONYMS

ASC Advanced Simulation and Computing

DNN Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation

DOE Department of Energy

DP Defense Programs

INMM Institute of Nuclear Materials Management

NGFP NNSA Graduate Fellowship Program

NNSA National Nuclear Security Administration

NSE Nuclear Security Enterprise

PAS Partnership and Acquisition Services

NSS National Security Sector

PNNL Pacific Northwest National Laboratory



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This year marks a significant milestone for the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Graduate Fellowship Program (NGFP): 30 years of supporting the Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE). During three decades, more than 900 Fellows have contributed to NNSA's mission and helped strengthen the workforce that sustains the nation's nuclear security priorities.

NGFP plays an important role in building that workforce. By recruiting, developing, and placing talented professionals across the enterprise, the program provides Fellows with meaningful mission experience while creating a strong pipeline of national security professionals prepared to take on increasing levels of responsibility. The program's continued success reflects its ability to connect emerging talent with critical mission needs across NNSA and the broader national security sector (NSS).

In this annual report, we recognize the Class of 2025–2026—NGFP's 30th cohort—and highlight their contributions and accomplishments. Their work demonstrates the breadth of the program, the capabilities Fellows bring to the enterprise, and the value of providing early-career professionals with opportunities to contribute directly to the mission.

NGFP's achievements are also the result of sustained collaboration across NNSA, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), host organizations, and program stakeholders. Their expertise, engagement, and focus on program execution help ensure Fellows receive challenging assignments, strong professional development, and the support necessary to perform effectively. I am grateful to the teams whose work continues to strengthen the program and deliver meaningful outcomes for both Fellows and the NSE.

We also recognize the NGFP alumni and NNSA colleagues who joined us in commemorating the program's 30th anniversary. As NGFP enters its next chapter, we remain focused on building on three decades of experience, strengthening the program's contribution to the enterprise, and preparing future cohorts to meet the evolving demands of the national security mission.

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:

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

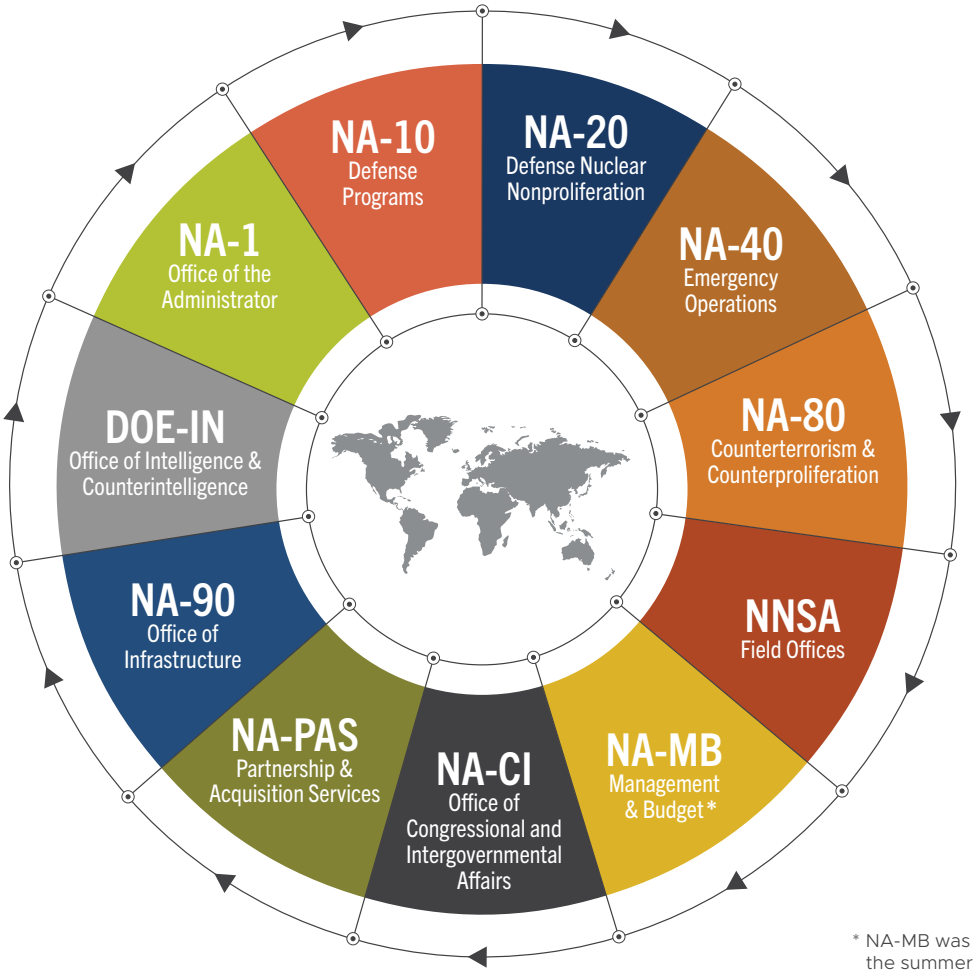
The NGFP Class of 2025–2026 continued the tradition of leaving its mark on the Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE). Like the cohorts before them, their fellowship started in Richland, Washington, and culminated in Washington, DC, symbolizing the range and depth of their experiences during their one-year assignment.

This year's annual report showcases the program's activities, from Orientation held on the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) campus (shown in cover photo) to the Closing Ceremony (pictured below) in the Forrestal Building in Washington, DC.

Program activities spanned from outreach to potential applicants in the spring of 2024 through supporting fellowship assignments that ended in June 2026.



Class of 2025-2026 Fellows during NGFP Closing Ceremony. (*Photo by Charles Watkins | Department of Energy*)



* NA-MB was restructured during the summer of 2026. The office overseeing NGFP is NA-HR.

HIRING

From a pool of 677 applicants, NNSA and PNNL personnel conducted more than 500 virtual interviews with the down-selected 253 candidates. The total number of applicants increased 50% compared to the previous year, which had set a record at the time.

The Class of 2025–2026 represented 72 fellows from 46 universities, who supported 56 NNSA program, functional, and field offices. At the time of their application, 29% of the fellows had completed a master's-level degree with 21% in progress, while 1% had completed doctoral degrees and 10% were in progress. Some who had in-progress degrees completed them before the start of the fellowship, while others continued their studies in tandem with their fellowship.

A new aspect of the fellowship was the inclusion of a two-year pilot for post-bachelor's Fellows, which encompassed about 15% of the cohort. Within the Class of 2025–2026, the educational backgrounds of the Fellows included a range of technical and policy experience.

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



Fellows at the NGFP Career Development Workshop and Fair in Washington, DC. (*Photo by Charles Watkins | Department of Energy)*

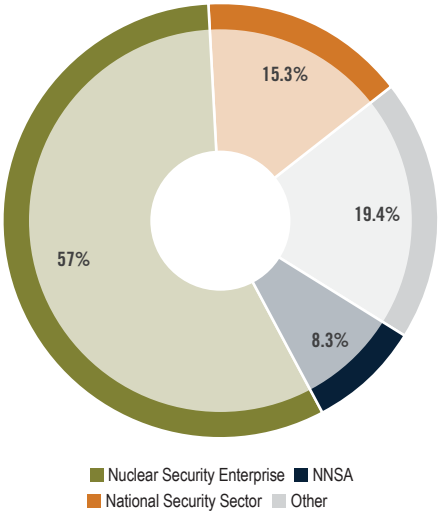
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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), August 18–22, 2025, in Washington, DC. 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

Fellows from the Class of 2025–2026 pursued a variety of employment types upon completing the fellowship program. Approximately 80% of the fellows sought employment with ties to national security. In this graph, NNSA represents federal hires; Nuclear Security Enterprise 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, such as DOS; and Other represents fellows who returned to academia or whose employment was unavailable at the time of publication.

LEADERSHIP AND MISSION IMPACT

In May 2026, NNSA leadership, PNNL staff, supervisors, mentors, and key stakeholders celebrated the 64 fellows from the Class of 2025–2026 who completed the fellowship. Approximately 80% of the class accepted offers within the National Security Sector and Nuclear Security Enterprise. This remains a positive trend in our programmatic outputs, with about 85% of our more than 900 alumni having exited our fellowship into positions with ties to national security.

LOOKING FORWARD

In June 2026, the NGFP Class of 2026–2027 became the 31st cohort of the program and the second to include post-bachelor's fellows. These 67 fellows were selected from a pool of 859 applicants and 510 virtual interviews, again breaking the record for application numbers.

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



Class of 2026-2027 Fellows during Orientation at PNNL. (*Photo by Eddie Pablo | Pacific Northwest National Laboratory*)

FELLOWS AND THEIR MISSION IMPACT

Fellows delivered meaningful programmatic contributions to their offices and used their allotted travel and training funds to expand their knowledge of NNSA missions by coordinating events, training sessions, site visits, and international meetings with their offices.

The following are highlights from their year-long 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/25-26-NGFP-Posters-PNNL-SA-222149.pdf**



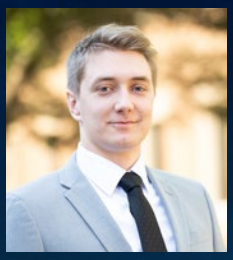
NGFP Fellows visited NNSA's Y-12 National Security Complex and Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee and met with Y-12 Field Office Manager Mary Helen Hitson. *(Photo shared by Mary Helen Hitson | Oak Ridge National Laboratory)*

PNNL OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARDS

Each recipient was nominated by their offices and recognized during Closing Ceremony.

Joseph Henning

NA-192.2 DEFENSE FUELS



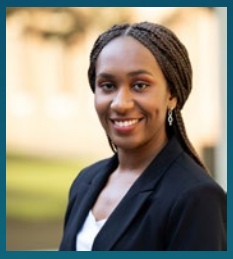
Joseph received an Outstanding Performance Award for his exceptional contributions in support of establishing a domestic uranium enrichment capability critical to U.S. defense requirements.

He led high-level engagements with Oak Ridge National Laboratory to clarify technology maturation milestones and delivered a well-received briefing on centrifuge development history to NA-192 leadership.

These contributions improved rigor in technology maturation tracking, resolved key technical uncertainties, and enhanced leadership's understanding of the program's mission.

Jaha McClean

NA-231 OFFICE OF REACTOR CONVERSION AND URANIUM SUPPLY



Jaha received an Outstanding Performance Award for her exceptional contributions to high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU) deconversion efforts with Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Her contributions advanced HALEU deconversion design decisions, prevented loss of project momentum during key periods, and ensured that an important Mo-99 stakeholder meeting was a success. Jaha consistently stepped into critical roles with minimal guidance, demonstrating technical expertise, policy acumen, and operational reliability far beyond fellowship expectations.

Jaha's collaborative spirit has been a benefit to our entire office, as she has engaged deeply on a variety of technical and policy topics.

Bryce Purgiel

NA-1.1 ENTERPRISE PLANNING AND ANALYSIS

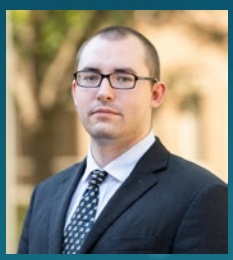


Bryce received an Outstanding Performance Award for his exceptional contributions during a period of significant organizational transition.

Bryce took the lead on a quick-turn request to develop a dashboard examining NNSA's delivery on projects outlined in the FY2020–FY2045 Strategic Integrated Roadmap. In less than two weeks, he determined data requirements, built the database framework, and briefed the completed product to Administrator Williams, NA-2's Senior Advisor, and the NNSA Chief of Staff. Bryce's dashboard established a critical baseline for NNSA's major projects and provided Administrator Williams with an analytical assessment of mission delivery over the past five years.

Dylan Sharp

NA-SN SANDIA FIELD OFFICE, SAFEGUARDS AND SECURITY



Dylan received an Outstanding Performance Award for developing innovative data tools that have meaningfully advanced enterprise-wide security risk management.

Dylan completed development of the Defense Nuclear Security Enterprise Security Risk Management Dashboard and Key Performance Indicators Risk Matrix, coding a data input system using Power Platform tools that integrates real-time risk data from eight Nuclear Security Enterprise sites.

His dashboard provides senior NNSA leadership with real-time intelligence on cascading risks, enabling more precise oversight and better-informed resource allocation decisions.

Elijah Ahrend, NA-234 Office of Program Support, executed key operational and administrative functions to enhance office effectiveness. He prepared executive briefings, tracked and managed action items, reviewed and edited financial documents, analyzed relevant congressional language, and supported the tracking of office travel funds.

Edgar Aldama, NA-22 Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Research and Development, participated in the assessment of white papers submitted by the national laboratories and contributed to conversations within the portfolios of plutonium detection, nuclear test detection, and the Nonproliferation Stewardship Program.

Katelyn Anderson, NA-22 Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Research and Development, gained a behind-the-scenes look at program management by engaging with federal program managers and technical advisors across various portfolios, including weapons development detection, nuclear test detection, remote detection, and tritium production monitoring.

Takara Askew, NA-244 Office of Civil Nuclear Cooperation and Engagement, supported the Nuclear Suppliers Group team by providing in-depth research and analytical support for the 2026 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and Nuclear Suppliers Group meetings, as well as participating in technical tours at Argonne National Laboratory and Northwestern University's Quantum Cascade Laser.

Abigail Bates, NA-LA Los Alamos Field Office, collaborated with stakeholders such as Environmental Management and Environmental, Safety, Health, and Quality at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to assess applicable requirements for environmental remediation, land transfer, and long-term stewardship decisions affecting LANL.

Luis D. Becerra, NA-115 Office of Engineering and Technology Maturation, was the first secretariat for an NA-11 Office of Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation—Collaborative, Agile, Strength-based Acquisition Advanced Manufacturing (CASA-AM)—whose mission is to fully leverage advanced manufacturing capabilities across the NSE by creating a coordinated, agile, strengths-based approach to establish a time-phased plan to close the gap between existing and needed advanced manufacturing capabilities within a 3-year cycle.

Andrea Blanco Camacaro, NA-PAS Office of Partnership and Acquisition Services (PAS), improved efficiency by streamlining processes and documenting standard procedures. She also co-led and planned the annual PAS symposium that provides training and leadership discussions to more than 400 contracting officers, contracting officer representatives, and federal program directors across the NSE.

Isabelle Bock, NA-24 Office of Nonproliferation and Arms Control, helped coordinate and enforce timely completion of interagency requests and statutory obligations between Congress, the White House, the Department of State, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of War.

Victoria Bryant, NA-PAS-31 Office of Partnership and Acquisition Services, supported the Supplies and Interagency Agreements team by conducting market research, assisting with contract placement, preparing solicitations, and supporting pre-award functions.

Anahi Carrera, NA-LL Livermore Field Office, worked on a technical project leading the development of a novel nuclear forensics radiochronometer to determine the production age of nuclear materials.

Bridgid Chandler, NA-213 Nuclear Smuggling Detection and Deterrence, assisted foreign affairs specialists to oversee program activities including project management, equipment deployment, testing and acceptance, and capacity building for partner countries in the Balkans, East Asia, and South America.

Josh Lynn Christie, NA-114 Office of Advanced Simulation and Computing, coauthored two white papers through collaboration with other offices within the NA-10 Defense Programs, contributing to the development of an internal digital engineering strategy to digitalize mission-driven processes.

Elodia Ciprian, NA-83 Office of Nuclear Forensics, gained direct experience in supporting the oversight of pre-detonation nuclear forensics exercises and contributed to program planning for NA-83.

Jeremiah Cutright, NA-183 Office of Strategic Planning and Analysis, collaborated with personnel in NNSA, as well as interagency partners in the Departments of War, State, Energy, and others. With these partners, his team worked to secure NNSA supply chains and promote long-term trends to improve national critical minerals and materials interests.

Vaneza Desrosier, NA-212 Office of Radiological Security, established new lines of communication with private-sector healthcare leaders for the Cesium Irradiator Replacement Program through targeted intergovernmental and congressional outreach.

Arch Drury, NA-181 Office of Policy and Requirements, engineered a robust stockpile component capacity model that leverages Python's analytical power and Excel's accessibility to track and project warhead component requirements across time.

Samer El-Abd, NA-MB-92 Office of Analysis and Evaluation, had the opportunity to contribute to a number of projects that included several infrastructure projects such as an analysis of the facilities and utilities contributing to pit production at the Savannah River Site.

Grant Falk, NA-213 Office of Nuclear Smuggling Detection and Deterrence, supported counter nuclear smuggling activities in Central Asia and the Middle East, conducted site surveys, deployed next-generation detection technologies, facilitated joint operational exercises, and coordinated with U.S. interagency and international nuclear forensics partners.

Isaias Fernandez, NA-121.4 Nuclear Enterprise Assurance, supported his office by contributing to the modernization of the nuclear stockpile and enterprise while building strong relationships across the enterprise, both in person and online, allowing him to begin solving problems and continuously learn throughout the year.

Vince Galvan, NA-114 Office of Advanced Simulation and Computing (ASC), coauthored a new digital engineering strategy that identifies the data pipelines, along with their respective owners, that the ASC program has equities in and provides guidelines for standardizing data handling and generation within all the ASC subprograms.

Adrian Garcia, NA-MB-91 Office of Programming, worked on facilitating the implementation of user experience updates for the internal Oracle database "FormEX," optimizing staff workload using data, and supporting various studies within NA-MB-92.

Jonathan Garcia, NA-193 Office of Warhead Assembly & Non-Nuclear Modernization, supported the leadership team by participating in senior staff meetings and monthly status updates with the labs, plants, and sites, as well as coordinating the programs' inputs for the annual Stockpile Stewardship and Management Plan.

Dylan Girone, NA-40 Office of Emergency Management, developed code to ensure mass consistency in three-dimensional wind inputs for plume modeling in coordination with the National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center and developed a novel model for predicting wildfire growth.

Lucas Gonzales, NA-MB-81 Weapons Activities Resource and Matrix Team, produced a program written in Visual Basic for Applications within Excel to automate the production of a weighted funding threshold report.

Elizabeth Gravitt, NA-MB-42 Office of Learning and Career Management, supported the NNSA Knowledge Preservation Project, actively capturing and codifying invaluable institutional knowledge, ensuring its accessibility for future reference and continuity.

Emily Harris, NA-113 Office of Experimental Sciences, developed communication tools that provide high-level overviews of Office of Experimental Sciences–supported facilities, targets, and diagnostics.

Amanda Hart, DOE-IN-15 Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence, Energy Security Division, produced multiple intelligence products on electric power generation, deep-sea critical minerals exploration, and energy technology markets, three of which are intended for classified publication and dissemination.

Tanner Heatherly, NA-122.4 Weapon Security and Control Division, coordinated with several Defense Programs offices and national laboratories to establish nuclear surety priorities for the current and future stockpile.

Stephen Hernandez, NA-122.3 Air Delivered Weapons Division, facilitated the authorization of necessary activities at various sites and ensured adherence to requirements and policies through the drafting of directive work authorizations.

Levko Higgins, NA-191.2 Savannah River Site Plutonium Modernization Program (SRPPF), supported the management of the competency development program in place to ensure a large and qualified workforce to produce pits at SRPPF once the facilities are operational.

Adriana Jaramillo, NA-242 Office of Nuclear Export Controls, supported program managers in their international and domestic engagements, including workshops in Qatar and Kazakhstan, and in their interagency work with U.S. export enforcement agencies, conducting export data analysis to identify and prevent adversaries from exploiting the U.S. scientific and industrial base.

Laura Jordan, NA-23 Office of Material Management and Minimization (M3), provided extensive direct support to the Assistant Deputy Administrator and led the coordination of all critical taskers between the Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation and M3's four program offices.

Huy Le, NA-122.1 Stockpile Services Division, supported the creation of online tools that streamlined information and enhanced processes, allowing our team to operate more effectively.

Andres Linares, NA-SN Sandia Field Office, helped with the tri-annual assessment of the nuclear facilities at Sandia National Laboratories, examining the programmatic implementation of their Maintenance Safety Management Program.

David Lu, NA-233 Office of Plutonium Disposition, supported the management of multiple office-sponsored programs, including reviewing deliverables and engaging with partners as part of the Strategic Laboratory Assessment, Advanced Integrated Recovery and Extraction System, and International Programs.

Melissa Lumogdang, NA-NV Nevada Field Office, assisted in drafting safety evaluation reports (SERs) and safety review letters (SRLs) for work at the Nevada National Security Site. SERs and SRLs include safety features and design criteria to ensure federal compliance and provide reasonable assurance for the security of Nevada National Security Site contractors and their work.

Adam Mafi, NA-122.2 Ballistic Missile Weapons Division, completed various projects that supported the nuclear triad and the 1958 United States–United Kingdom Mutual Defense Agreement.

Luke Maloney, NA-772 Insider Threat Program, coordinated with the U.S. Military Academy and subject matter experts across the NNSA to proactively address nascent risks posed by AI implementation.

Matt McCracken, NA-1.1 Enterprise Planning and Analysis, had the opportunity to draft and provide a brief on an independent analysis highlighting the challenges facing NNSA's drive to accelerate delivery for the production mission.



Jaha McClean visits research reactors at Kyoto University in Japan. *(Photo provided by Jaha)*

Amber Moin, NA-18 Office of Systems Engineering and Integration, Front Office, partnered with NNSA's Office of Management and Budget to facilitate the entry of more than $30 billion of program scope and budget positions into the NNSA FormEX system.

Alexandria Molinari, NA-81 Office of Nuclear Incident Preparedness and Collaboration, helped create country assessments and a domestic prioritization model and assisted with training sessions and workshops.

Seamus Murphy, NA-193 Warhead Assembly and Non-Nuclear Modernization, supported production modernization by aligning FY 2027 Stockpile Responsiveness and Management Plan inputs across the three NA-19 programs, ensuring consistent priorities.



Fellows visit the Nuclear Emergency Support Team facility at Joint Base Andrews.
(Photo provided by Marisa Dansereau | Mission Support and Test Services, LLC)

Alexandra Myers, NA-LA Los Alamos Field Office, coordinated technical and administrative reviews of weapons quality assurance procedures to ensure compliance with NNSA policies.

Emmy Naw, NA-181 Office of Policy and Requirements, supported the Defense Programs Risk Management team, which leads and advances the Defense Programs' integrated risk management approach to enable the nuclear deterrent mission.

Chantel Newsome, NA-NV Nevada Field Office, led improvements for the Strategic Partnership Project process, which enhanced efficiency from the initial project receipt to its completion.

Jake Norris, NA-20 Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, supported colleagues from Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation program offices, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and Y-12 lab and field office employees to develop an agenda and synchronize logistics so that Dr. Matthew Napoli could join NNSA Principal Deputy Administrator Scott Pappano (NA-2) for portions of the tour at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Y-12 National Security Complex.

Fernando Patlan, NA-192.5 Lithium Modernization, contributed to improved understanding of process needs and modernization pathways for lithium operations. He helped review technical information, assess process gaps, and engage with site partners to support program planning.

Gordon Peters, NA-182 Office of Program Management Support, along with multiple stakeholders, spearheaded a project to modernize and update the federal requirements located within the Defense Programs Business Process System.



Fellows visit the X-10 Graphite Reactor at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. *(Photo provided by Fellows)*

Luke Radice, NA-211 Office of International Nuclear Security, traveled to Jordan to support an Office of International Nuclear Security–facilitated train-the-trainer workshop with national partners from the Jordan Research and Training Reactor and the National Gendarmerie.

DJ Reed, NA-10 Deputy Administrator's Action Group, directly supported NA-10 to ensure situational awareness of weapons activities developments, processing of key signatory documents, and coordination of inter-organizational documents. His work has facilitated leadership review of key items, supported decision-making within Defense Programs, and provided coverage for his teammate's portfolios.

Marco Savarin, NA-10 Deputy Administrator's Action Group, provided hands-on support in assisting leadership with executing mission activities related to the Office of Research, Development, Test, and Evaluations (NA-11) and the Office of Stockpile Management (NA-12).

Altan Shapovalov, NA-40 Office of Emergency Management, helped engineer an interactive dashboard that provided senior leadership with real-time site status visibility. This new capability accelerated and optimized enterprise monitoring, ultimately elevating overall operational oversight.

Jesse Sippel, NA-CI Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, assisted the front office with a wide variety of time-sensitive tasks by coordinating activities, tracking internal and external national security engagements for awareness, supporting senior staff with agency-wide initiatives, and briefing senior office leadership on events and legislative research.

Zach Slotkin, NA-232 Office of Nuclear Material Removal and Elimination, worked closely with the Nuclear Infrastructure Threat Reduction (NITR) program manager, lab personnel, and representatives of NITR's two pilot partners, Portugal and Serbia.

Jackson Stanley, NA-241 Office of International Nuclear Safeguards, supported the Safeguards Technology Program, which oversees the development, testing, and transfer of more efficient and cost-effective safeguard tools, technologies, and methods to the International Atomic Energy Agency.



Luke Radice with Jordanian partners at the Jordan Research and Training Reactor. *(Photo provided by Luke)*



Fellows at the National Ignition Facility at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. (*Photo provided by Fellows)*

Akhila Vemuri, NA-121.2 Office of Production Operations, worked mainly with the Enterprise Capacity Analysis model, which provides high-level, quick-turn analysis of production capacities against stockpile demand scenarios.

Kaley Walker, NA-242 Office of Nuclear Export Controls–Export Control Review and Compliance/Interdiction, reviewed foreign engagement proposals to ensure NNSA's laboratory complex complies with export control regulations during engagements with international entities.

Jordan Wolken, NA-191 Office of Plutonium Pit Production Modernization, contributed to the management of programs supporting pit production recapitalization and infrastructure modernization. This included supporting capital line items and equipment procurement at Los Alamos National Laboratory, as well as assisting in the Glovebox Enhanced Capabilities project at the Nevada National Security Site.

Natasha Wood, NA-243 Office of Nuclear Verification, worked closely with lab partners to revise NA-243's documents that overview technical approaches to meet a range of potential monitoring and verification mission objectives. As part of the Seismic Cooperation Team, she supported efforts to strengthen seismic monitoring in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Eleni Zervos, NA-12 Office of Stockpile Management, helped with tracking and reviewing taskers, drafting talking points, facilitating meeting preparation, and coordinating deliverables for 13 diverse portfolios.


Elijah Ahrend
Edgar Aldama
Francisco Alvarado
Katelyn Anderson
Takara Askew
Abby Bates
Luis Becerra
Andrea Blanco
Isabelle Bock
Victoria Bryant
Anahi Carrera
Bridgid Chandler
Josh Christie
Elodia Ciprian
Josh Cook
Jeremiah Cutright
Vaneza Desrosier
Arch Drury
Samer El-Abd
Grant Falk
Isaias Fernandez
Vince Galvan
Adrian Garcia
Jonathan Garcia
Dylan Girone
Lucas Gonzales
Lizzie Gravitt
Emily Harris
Amanda Hart
Katie Hausman
Tanner Heatherly
Joseph Henning
Stephen Hernandez
Levko Higgins
Adriana Jaramillo
Zarina Jones
Laura Jordan
Huy Le
Andy Linares
Jessica Link
David Lu
Melissa Lumogdang
Adam Mafi
Luke Maloney
Jaha McClean
Matthew McCracken
Amber Moin
Lexa Molinari
Jenna Moreno
Seamus Murphy
Alex Myers
Emmy Naw
Chantel Newsome
Jake Norris
Fernando Patlan
Derek Pedigo
Gordon Peters
Bryce Purgiel
Luke Radice
DJ Reed
Ryan Ruth
Marco Savarin
Altan Shapovalov
Dylan Sharp
Jesse Sippel
Zachary Slotkin
Jackson Stanley
Akhila Vemuri
Kaley Walker
Jordan Wolken
Natasha Wood
Eleni Zervos



Photo by Charles Watkins | Department of Energy

HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

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

OUTREACH

University Relationship Managers

The strategy for recruiting the Class of 2025–2026 focused on University Relationship Managers strengthening their connections with university professors, advisors, leadership, and graduate career centers.

The results of these efforts include the following successes:

- NGFP University Relationship Managers executed over 100 events with 77 university partners while attending conferences and meetings with national and international participants.
- From an applicant pool of 677, NNSA and DOE personnel interviewed to fill approved positions.
- A final class of 72 fellows was hired, 76% of which came from university partners' outreach efforts.

The Class of 2025–2026 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.

INMM Partnership

To culminate the 30th anniversary, NGFP signed a partnership agreement with the Institute of Nuclear Materials Management (INMM) to strengthen the pipeline for nuclear security leaders. INMM is a global organization that is dedicated to the safe, secure, and effective management and stewardship of nuclear and other radioactive materials.

Looking toward the future, NGFP seeks to enhance its reach to future leaders who have a passion to serve. Through collaborative communication channels, INMM and NGFP hope to expand their reach and help students access more resources, networking opportunities, and connections for mentorship.

Applications for the NGFP Class of 2027–2028 opened August 2026.



NGFP signed a partnership agreement with INMM to strengthen the pipeline for nuclear security leaders. *(Photo provided by INMM)*

LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Aspiring Leader Certificate Program

Fellows participated in the Aspiring Leader Certificate Program, which 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 will prepare fellows to add value to their organization and the success of the federal workforce.

National Security and Leadership Foundations Event

Fellows attended the National Security and Leadership Foundations Event, August 18–22, 2025, in Washington, DC. This event included briefings from various national security stakeholders, tours, and engagement with NNSA leadership. A new activity included fellows delivering mission briefings that provided an overview of their offices' missions and structures. Support from their offices was crucial to the success of this assignment.

During the event, Fellows also visited the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and the Remote Sensing Laboratory at Joint Base Andrews and engaged in a Department of War briefing and Nuclear Matters NGFP Alumni Panel.

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

Held in Washington, DC, in late January 2026, several NGFP career development events were designed to help fellows connect with leaders from across the National Security Sector, gain career advice for succeeding in the field of



NNSA Graduate Fellowship Program Career Fair at the National Union Building Washington, DC held on January 30, 2026. *(Photo by Donica Payne | DOE photographer)*

national security, and explore job opportunities post-fellowship.

The Career Development Workshop on January 29, 2026, featured presentations and panels about negotiating and networking in the NSE. The event culminated in the NGFP Career Fair on January 30, 2026, with 20 organizations representing the federal government, NNSA contractors, national laboratories, and other National Security Sector organizations to connect fellows with potential employment opportunities.

After the Career Fair, Culmen hosted on-site interviews with about 10 fellows.

Training Sessions, Workshops, and Conferences

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

- NNSA Building Your Foundations, July 15–17
- DOE Plain Language Training
- International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguards: From Theory to Practice
- Nuclear Testing and Stockpile Stewardship training at Sandia National Laboratories
- Career mapping session with Dr. Leesa Duckworth, a senior national security specialist who also leads the Nuclear Materials Team at PNNL
- Nuclear Weapon Incident Response Training hosted by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's Defense Nuclear Weapons School

Fellows also toured labs, plants, and sites; participated in professional organizations; supported engagements with international partners; and gained a wealth of leadership development training available through the NNSA Learning Nucleus.



Photo by Linh Truong | Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

CAPSTONE EVENTS

Orientation

In June 2025, NGFP welcomed the 30th cohort during Orientation. During their week spent on the PNNL campus in Richland, Washington, Fellows heard from Steve Ashby, now former director of PNNL, and enjoyed 30th anniversary activities. Pictured with the celebratory cake are Tom Gray, PNNL NGFP manager, and Alexander Godinez, NNSA NGFP federal program manager.

Fellows had opportunities to learn about foundational 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 best practices for succeeding in the fellowship. During the event, fellows participated in hands-on radiological detection demonstrations at the Volpentest Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response Federal Training Center.

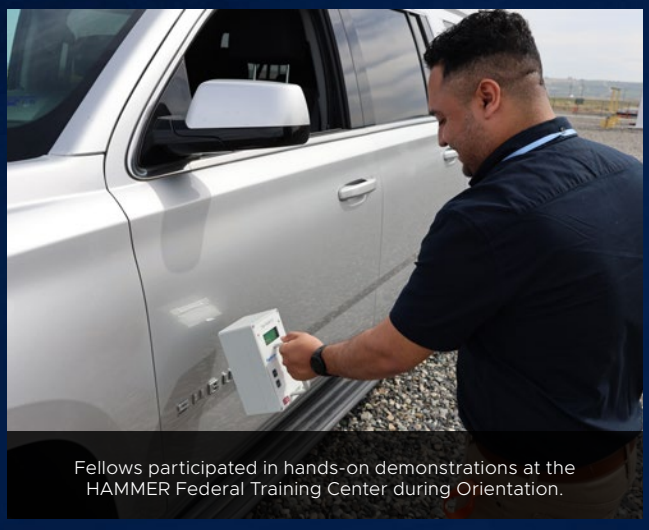
After the Richland Orientation, fellows participated in NNSA Welcome Day to complete onboarding activities specific to their assigned offices. They also had virtual sessions with NNSA managers and mentors to learn more about the NNSA mission, operations, and organization.



Fellows participated in hands-on demonstrations at the HAMMER Federal Training Center during Orientation.



During Orientation, NGFP kicked off its 30th anniversary.



Fellows participated in hands-on demonstrations at the HAMMER Federal Training Center during Orientation.

Photos by Linh Truong | Pacific Northwest National Laboratory



Brandon Williams, Under Secretary for Nuclear Security at the Department of Energy and Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration.

Closing Ceremony and Alumni Reception

To celebrate the Class of 2025–2026, the program held a Closing Ceremony and Alumni Reception that welcomed more than 300 in-person and virtual attendees, including fellows, their supervisors, mentors, and alumni from across the NSE. During the event, fellows shared their experiences in the program.

Key speakers included Brandon Williams, Under Secretary for Nuclear Security at the Department of Energy and Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration; Kinsee Owens, NNSA Associate Administrator of Human Resources and Strategic Operations; and Daniel Stephens, PNNL Associate Laboratory Director for the National Security Directorate. With this class, the NGFP alumni network grew to more than 900 members spanning the NNSA and broader National Security Sector.



Kinsee Owens, NNSA Associate Administrator of Human Resources and Strategic Operations.



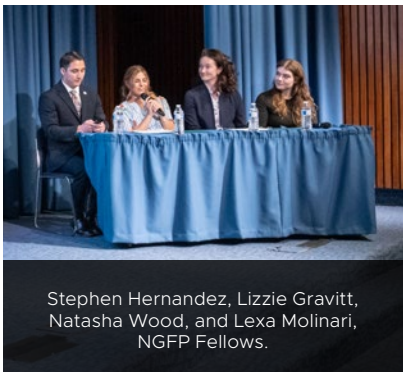
Daniel Stephens, PNNL Associate Laboratory Director for the National Security Directorate.



Alexander Godinez-Robinson, NNSA Federal Program Manager.



Marco Savarin, NGFP Fellow.



Stephen Hernandez, Lizzie Gravitt, Natasha Wood, and Lexa Molinari, NGFP Fellows.

Photos by Charles Watkins | Department of Energy

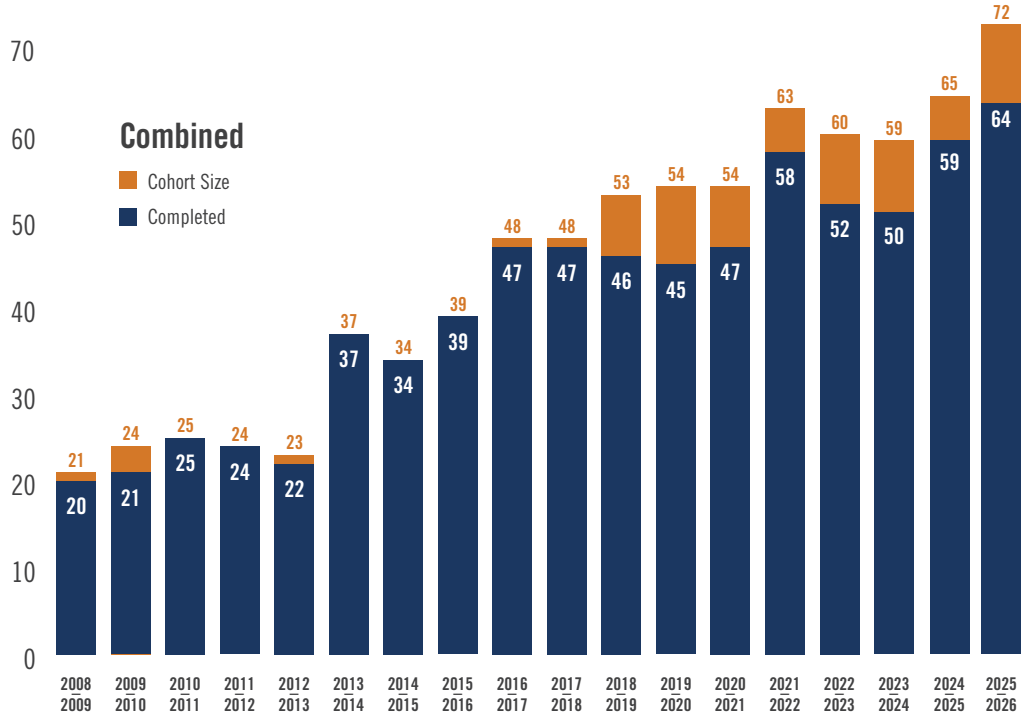
BACKGROUND AND EVOLUTION

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.

GROWTH

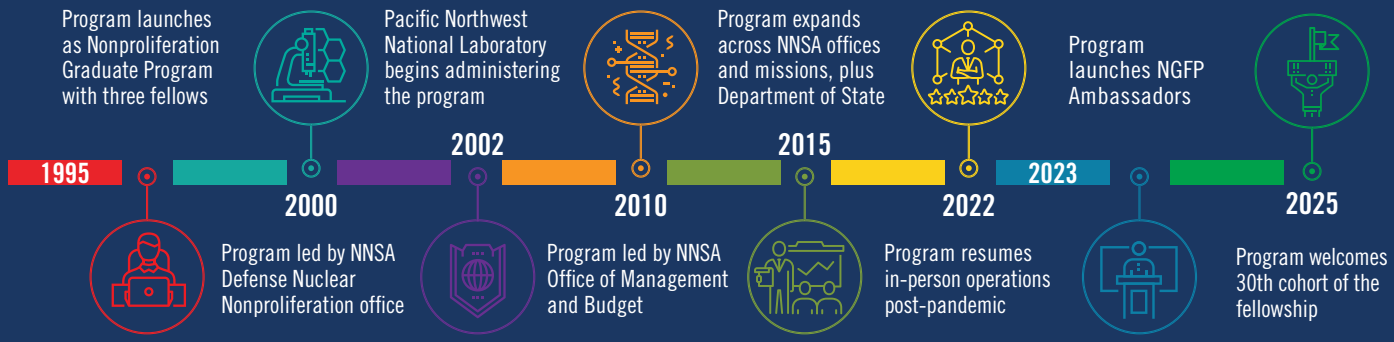
Since the program's inception in 1995, the demand for fellows has evolved with NNSA's increasing need for top talent in various mission spaces. The program has grown from three fellows in the inaugural class to 64 fellows completing the program in 2026. Launched originally to serve NNSA's Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation (DNN) mission, the program now spans the entire NSE, placing fellows within DNN, Defense Programs, Counterterrorism and Counterproliferation, Safety, Infrastructure, and Operations, NNSA's site offices, and DOE's Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence, Energy Security Division.



NGFP class size at the beginning and end of the fellowship. The program has grown from three fellows in 1995 to 64 fellows completing the program in 2026.

HISTORY

Along with general program growth, opportunities for professional and leadership development have expanded to include unique Fellow- or office-specific training sessions, which are made possible with Fellows' allotted training funds. Each year, Fellows find exciting new ways to build their skill sets 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 diverse mission spaces.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

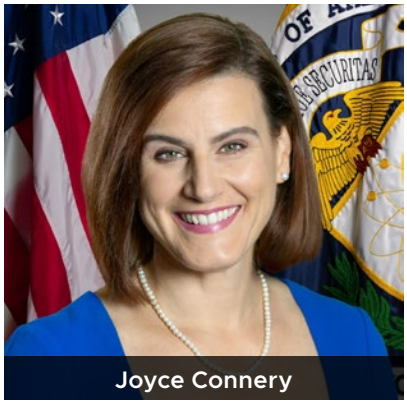
NGFP alumni are outstanding examples of NGFP's continuous impact on U.S. national security missions.

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



Jo Anna Bredenkamp

Jo Anna Bredenkamp (Class of 2003–2004) was invited to address the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Nuclear Energy Agency Steering Committee to share her views on the practical implications of the state of nuclear export controls in the current digital economy. **https://www.oecd-nea.org/jcms/pl_117845/steering-committee-for-nuclear-energy-reviews-nea-activities-discusses-export-controls-on-global-nuclear-trade**


Joyce Connery

Joyce Connery (Class of 1999–2000) was selected as a distinguished fellow at the Nuclear Energy Policy Initiative of the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Center: **https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/expert/joyce-connery/**


Dr. Josh Cunningham

Dr. Josh Cunningham (Class of 2018–2019), chief operating officer for the Quantum Science Center, was spotlighted by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education: **https://orise.orau.gov/people/success-stories/2026/josh-cunningham.html**

After completing their assignments, approximately 80% of the Class of 2025–2026 accepted positions where they continue to support the global security mission within government, industry, the private sector, or academia.



The Dominquez siblings

The Dominguez siblings (Omar, Maribel, and Cesar) are the only Fellows with siblings in the fellowship. Maribel (Dominguez) Quintana (Class of 2016–2017) was first, then Cesar Dominguez (Class of 2019–2020), and finally Omar Dominguez (Class of 2024–2025). They were featured in the 30th anniversary story: **https://www.pnnl.gov/news-media/pnnl-boosts-national-security-careers-three-decades.**



Dr. Kyle C. Hartig

Dr. Kyle C. Hartig (Class of 2012–2013), associate professor at the University of Florida, was named to the American Nuclear Society's Nuclear News 40 Under 40 list: **https://mse.ufl.edu/uf-nuclear-engineering-professor-named-2025-ans-40-under-40/**

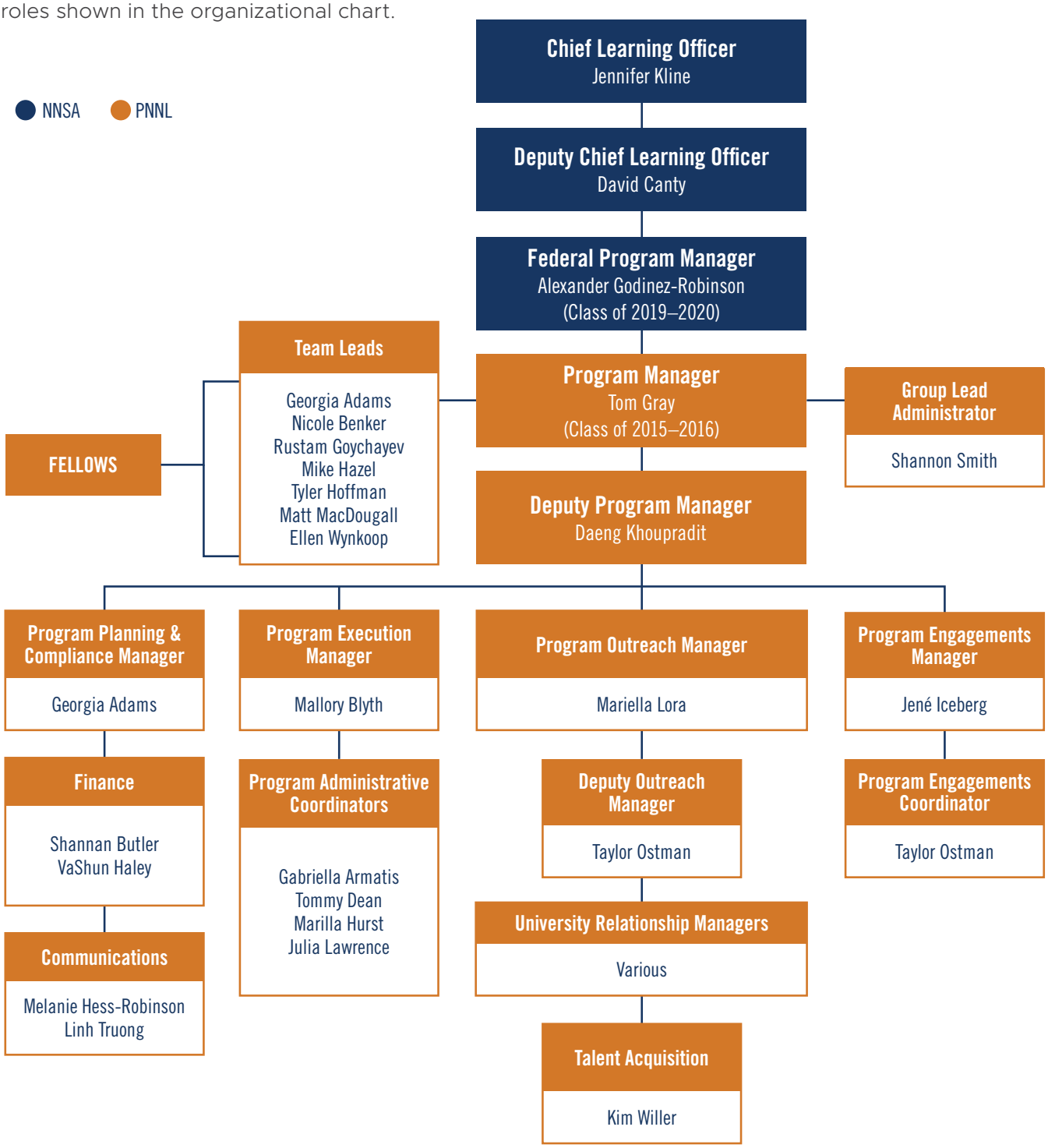


Kevin Heaney

Kevin Heaney (Class of 2022–2023) was recognized as the winner of the Cybersecurity Rising Star Award by the GovCIO Media & Research CyberScape Flywheel Awards: **https://govciomedia.com/honoring-leading-cyber-tech-innovators-at-the-2026-cyberscape-summit/**

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.



NGFP CLASS OF 2025–2026
BY THE NUMBERS

77
University Partners

677
Completed Applications

253
Candidates interviewed

517
Interviews

56
Different program, functional, and field offices supported

72
Fellows started the program

46%
of Fellows had technical backgrounds

43%
of Fellows had policy backgrounds

7%
of Fellows had multidisciplinary technical and policy backgrounds

80%
of Fellows accepted positions tied to national security

900+
Alumni

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

Program Administered by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Alexander Godinez-Robinson
Federal Program Manager
National Nuclear Security Administration
alexander.godinez@nnsa.doe.gov

Tom Gray
NGFP Program Manager
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
tom.gray@pnnl.gov



NNSA National Nuclear Security Administration | U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY | Pacific Northwest NATIONAL LABORATORY

PNNL-39982