

BSUPI

The Bowie State University Philanthropy Initiative

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The BSU Philanthropy Initiative Welcomes 5 New Fellows and 3 New Partners into the BSU Philanthropy Fellowship



Jada Forbes
Moore Philanthropy



Kendra Lawrence
The Cypress Fund



Jarrod Trujillo
Aspen Institute



Mercy Ogutu
Grand Victoria Foundation



Paula Montepeque
Annie E. Casey Foundation



For the 2026 – 27 academic year, the Bowie State University Philanthropy Fellowship celebrates another renewal with a 5th cohort of new Fellows and the addition of 3 new partners.

The Fellows: Pictured above are the 5 new Fellows. Each was chosen for their commitment to the well-being of Black and Brown communities as attested by the following. “After learning about the opportunity, I was immediately drawn to the program’s mission to develop future leaders,” said Jada Forbes. “The fellowship’s emphasis on hands-on experience, executive mentorship, and engagement with organizations that serve communities aligns closely with my professional interests.”

Kendra Lawrence added, “The BSU Philanthropy Fellowship represents the ideal bridge between my professional background in strategic management and my commitment to public service. I believe this program will transform my passion for advocacy into a high-impact career in executive philanthropic leadership.”

“I am interested in how philanthropy can support initiatives related to housing access, community development, and economic mobility,” said Jarrod Trujillo. “This fellowship

offers an opportunity for me to grow as a leader committed to advancing policies and initiatives that help historically underserved communities thrive.”

About Our New Partners: Three new entities will join with the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Grand Victoria Foundation in hosting our new Fellows beginning on July 1st.

MOORE Philanthropy is a Black-owned and women-led philanthropic advisory firm and public charity bringing over 25 years of knowledge and experience to provide thoughtful, strategic, and tailored philanthropic services to individuals, families, and organizations in the U.S. and abroad.

THE CYPRESS FUND. Bringing together donors, organizers, and community leaders across race and class, Cypress Fund builds relationships and organizing capacity by putting decision-making in the hands of trusted organizers to fund organizing in their communities.

THE ASPEN INSTITUTE. The Aspen Forum for Community Solutions (AFCS) promotes collaborative, community-based efforts that build the power and influence of those with the least access to opportunity, and supports communities to come together to expand mobility, eliminate systemic barriers, and create their own solutions to their most pressing challenges.

“With this configuration of Fellows and Hosts, the 2026 – 27 Fellowship year promises to be another banner year of growth and discovery for our students and for the field,” said Dr. James Hyman. “We are looking forward to bearing witness to the journey.”