

Benjamin Kane Gupta Fellows

Creating Partnerships that Transform Lives

The Global Partnership Initiative is designed to make democracy serve citizens more justly and effectively by advancing partnerships that create economic opportunity. With its commitment to teaching social responsibility in a global economy, GWSB is perfectly positioned to help MBA students take part in this important work.

Through a generous gift from the family of Benjamin Kane Gupta, the U.S. Department of State Secretary's Office of Global Partnerships and George Washington University School of Business have launched a fellowship program for elite MBA students to learn the art of crafting international public-private partnerships to create prosperity and improve lives around the world.

The Benjamin Kane Gupta Fellows program honors the legacy of Gupta, a GW joint MBA/Law student who died in December 2011, and his diligent work at the State Department, where he interned as part of his MBA program.

Gupta's father, Vinod Gupta, a prominent philanthropist and former founder, chairman and CEO of Infogroup, said his son, Ben, consid-

ered both GW's Business and Law schools "as his home."

The Gupta fellowships will be offered to up to four MBA students per year. Stipends will support a full-time schedule of 40 hours per week at State for one semester.

Business students from any accredited university may apply. The fellows will be selected through an application process and selection committee in accordance with GW university procedures. Depending on the university where they are enrolled, Gupta fellows may be eligible to obtain academic credit for the fellowship. The program will be administered within the School of Business.

"Ben embodied our values at George Washington with his commitment to public service and passion for inter-

national engagement,” said Business School Interim Dean Chris Kayes.

At State, the fellows will apply classroom skills to the meaningful work of international public-private partnership creation and management. They will work in the Office of Global Partnerships or in a regional bureau to facilitate collaboration among innovative businesses, governments, and civil society through research and program development.

“We are deeply honored that the Gupta Family has launched this fellowship, which will provide leading students with an opportunity to learn the art of partnership building,” said Thomas Debass, State’s deputy special representative for global partnerships.

In 2009, the Global Partnership Initiative (GPI) was launched by the Secretary of State’s office as a means of finding innovative approaches to solving challenging problems around the world.

Clearly, new approaches were necessary. U.S. foreign aid comprises less than 15 percent of developing countries’ capital flow, compared with 70 percent in the 1960s. With fewer resources, governments need new ways of approaching challenging problems.

Since its creation, the GPI has worked with more than 1,100 partners and leveraged more than \$650 million in public and private resources, fundamentally changing how State conducts diplomacy and development.

There have been real victories. For instance, nearly half the people on earth rely on stoves that emit toxins and open fires to cook their daily meals, resulting in four million deaths annually. But through the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves—a GPI flagship initiative—a cost-effective,

clean cookstove market has been created, enabling millions of families to adopt eco-friendly cooking solutions. So far, \$150 million has been mobilized, with 38 countries participating. The goal is to have 100 million households adopt clean cookstoves by 2020.

These are the types of partnerships that transform lives, and through the Benjamin Kane Gupta Fellows program, MBA students will get first-hand experience in forging such alliances across business, government and other sectors. At the School of



“My son Ben absolutely loved his years at GW Law and GW Business School. We are indebted to George Washington University and the Department of State for their generosity toward honoring Ben’s memory with this program.”

—Vinod Gupta

Founder, former CEO and Chairman of Infogroup; Chairman at Everest Group LLC; Founder of Database101.com and the Vinod Gupta Charitable Foundation; and Trustee at the William J. Clinton Foundation.

Business, where we are committed to strengthening the compact between business, society and public policy, we are grateful to the Gupta family, and the Office of Global Partnerships, for the opportunity to advance this critical work.

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