

## **Women's Initiative - Microenterprise/Microfinance Fellowship Program**

"What drew me to Women's Initiative is the fact that the organization acts as a guide for women to make changes to their own lives in a way they are passionate about. Through WI, women improve their economic situations and give back to their communities by using their interests, their intelligence, their skills and their experiences to form businesses that are unique to them."

- Arrin Kaplan, Microenterprise Fellow

The Women's Initiative Fellowship Program gives both seasoned professionals and recent graduates the opportunity to gain experience in microenterprise and microfinance and make important contributions to this exciting and ever-growing field. Ten fellowships are awarded to people sincerely dedicated to building the entrepreneurial capacity of women to overcome social and economic barriers, giving greater hope to the cause of social equity.

Throughout this intensive program, the fellows learn the fundamentals of microenterprise development and non-profit management and specialize in areas such as finance and micro lending, development, marketing, program development, research and public policy, and strategic planning.

By giving the fellows hands-on experience in an environment that requires diligence and passion, the program develops their leadership skills and instills a deep admiration of service for the greater good. They will be part of a movement that works to counter the effects of national crisis and economic recession, to help low-income women establish their own businesses and become truly self-sufficient.

The Women's Initiative is now accepting nominations for fall fellows. Interested parties should visit <http://www.womensinitiative.org/getinvolved/job-opportunities.htm>, click on the link for the fellowship, and submit an application.

### ***Summer 2009 Fellows***

**Beverly Schwarz** has a BA in Anthropology and Spanish from Willamette University and an MBA with a focus on Non-Profit Management. She studied and volunteered in Quito, Ecuador and has worked for non-profits in the areas of girls' education in Africa, international health, guide dog training, microenterprise, and mental healthcare.

**Nicolas Takamine** is a former investment banker. While he once worked to generate shareholder value, he now hopes to create "social value" by helping to strengthen the organizational capacity of nonprofits and social enterprises. Nicolas holds a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Southern California and is the author of the Think: Social Innovation blog.



**Jeanette Park** is currently a Public Policy Fellow with the Women's Initiative. A graduate of Dartmouth College and NYU Law, she was inspired by the stories of need in this recent downturn to leave her position as a corporate attorney and explore the world of microenterprise.

**Barbara Barza** works in Marketing at WI's Oakland office. She is an experienced consumer technology marketing consultant with expertise in developing and launching new, leading edge products and programs for entrepreneurial organizations including Apple, PIXAR, and UGOBE Life Forms.

**Mariane Jauregui** moved to the U.S. seven years ago from Bolivia. She recently graduated from UC Berkeley with a double major in Peace and Conflict Studies and Spanish Literature. Mariane has worked as an intern at both City Lights Publisher in San Francisco and the Bolivian Consulate. She is also working on developing a project in Bolivia to implement alternative educational programs for youth.

**Yocupitzia Oseguera** has a B.S. in Marketing from Santa Clara University and a Minor in International Business. Her Past work experiences include working as an editorial assistant for a communications journal and co-teaching ESL classes for adults.

**Angela Nguyen** is a Marketing Fellow at the Women's Initiative of Silicon Valley. She graduated with a B.A. in Political Economy of Industrial Societies from UC Berkeley and has experience working with other non-profits, including Oakland Asian Students Educational Services and Project Vietnam. She has also interned at VHN-TV, a national Vietnamese-American television station.

**Tess Wiskel** is working on development at WI, writing proposals and doing prospect research. Before coming to WI, she did development work with the Berkeley Free Clinic, writing proposals, organizing fundraisers and some donor relations management. Tess also volunteered abroad in Uganda, doing development work in rural health care.

**Arrin Kaplan** is a graduate from Wellesley College. She worked on the Obama campaign as a Regional Data Managers for CA Region 3 in Silicon Valley, CA, was involved in Girls' LEAP (Girls' Lifetime Empowerment Awareness Program) in Boston, MA, and has interned with Shalom Bayit, a Bay Area Jewish women's domestic violence organization.

**Lynn Davis** has an MBA degree from New York University. She has held management positions with multinational corporations and entrepreneurial start-ups and has served as a VISTA Volunteer with the Pueblo Indians in Northern New Mexico. Lynn also served two internships - one at the Children's Television Workshop, and one for the producers of Sesame Street.

By Angela Nguyen, 2009 Microenterprise Summer Fellow  
[anguyen@womensinitiative.org](mailto:anguyen@womensinitiative.org)