

## NAGF Fellow Testimonials

*"The Samya Rose Stumo National Air Grant Fellowship Program was instrumental in my academic and professional development. As a doctoral candidate pursuing a degree in Public Administration with a specialization in Public Transportation & Aviation, the fellowship provided a unique opportunity to witness first-hand how aviation/aerospace policy was made in Congress and then administered by the FAA. The program also provided numerous exclusive networking opportunities with FAA officials, Congressional leadership, and prominent external stakeholders operating within the aviation/aerospace industry, which has benefited myself and others indefinitely since the fellowship has ended. Overall, the program does an excellent job providing fellows with exposure to the executive and legislative arms of U.S. government while complementing one's graduate studies and preparing them for a career in federal service should they opt to pursue one."* Theodore W. Johnson, Ph.D. Pub Admin; Specialization in Transportation and Aviation (NAGF 2023 Class)

*"The National Air Grant Fellowship program has taken my personal and professional development to new heights. Not only have I been exposed to a variety of different topics regarding aviation policy, but I have also grown as a professional by working in an environment that requires my best every day. This fellowship is only the beginning of a very promising future."* Amber Willitt, M.S. Aerospace Engineering (NAGF 2024 Class)

*"If you are looking for a rare opportunity, the Samya Rose Stumo National Air Grant Fellowship Program is an avenue that could help create a life changing pathway. I had almost given up when I signed up for the Fellowship Program. I signed up knowing that I'm one among hundreds of students/ recent graduates, and I got selected. The fellowship helped me meet a diverse pool of people that are/have mentored me and support my aspirations. The Fellowship provides an array of opportunities that students could take advantage of which could ultimately lead to success. I'm one among several of the fellows that are paving a path that was once unforeseeable and look forward to supporting the incoming graduates!"* Harriet Sanya, M.S. Human Factors (NAGF 2023 Class)

*"The National Air Grant Fellowship provided an invaluable opportunity to gain experience within the FAA and to make connections and explore the many facets of the organization. During my time as a Fellow, I not only had the chance to take the lead on projects, but to also participate in an important interagency collaborative effort and to travel to important meetings with US government agencies and our international and industry partners. The fellowship was the perfect way to explore opportunities within the agency and to seamlessly transition into a permanent position at the FAA more in line with my professional goals than my prior position. I am happy to have been a part of this distinguished group of fellows."* Kenisha Ford, Ph.D. Physics (NAGF 2023 Class)

*"There is no better way to learn than by doing, and the Samya Rose Stumo National Air Grant Fellowship Program is a unique chance for those with a technical background to do aviation legislation. This fellowship is an excellent opportunity to better understand the legislative branch*

*and process, to network with others within and beyond aviation, and to live, work, and play in the DC area. If you are interested in a low-stakes exploration of whether policy work is for you, I would strongly encourage you to apply!”* Geoffrey Ding, M.S. Aeronautics and Astronautics (NAGF 2024 Class)