



Ambassador Gina Abercrombie Winstanley

A 30-year diplomat, is the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer for the Department of State. Through a series of senior positions that included Ambassador to the Republic of Malta, Foreign Policy Advisor to the Commander of U.S. cyber forces, expanding our counterterrorism partners and programs as Deputy Coordinator for Counterterrorism, and Coordinating the largest evacuation of American citizens from a war zone since WWII, her professional life has played out almost daily in international media.

Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Ms. Abercrombie-Winstanley served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Oman. She began her formal work in teaching and leadership development as Chairwoman for Middle East Area Studies at the prestigious Foreign Service Institute where U.S. diplomats are trained. Earlier in her career, she served in Baghdad, Jakarta, and Cairo before taking on the position of Special Assistant to the Secretary of State. Her Middle East assignments include election monitoring in the Gaza Strip and an extraordinary assignment where she actively supported gender equality in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the first woman to lead a diplomatic mission there. In addition to the State Department, she has held senior positions at the Defense Department and at the National Security Council. Prior to that, she was a fellow on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for the then Ranking Member, Senator Joseph Biden. Ms. Abercrombie-Winstanley is the recipient of the Maltese Order of Merit, Department of State Meritorious and Superior Honor Awards, including "For acts of courage during an attack on the U.S. Consulate General, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on December 6, 2004 by al-Qa'ida terrorists."

Over the years, Ms. Abercrombie-Winstanley has been a keynote speaker for a variety of organizations including IESAbroad, The Cleveland City Club, TrueBlue Inclusion, Harvard University, The University of Denver, The University of Malta, and Johns Hopkins University. She has been an in demand panelist and moderator at international think tanks on issues ranging from U.S. Mid-East Policy, how diversity and inclusion improve U.S. foreign policy making, cyber security challenges, and counterterrorism. She is a strong proponent of excellence through

inclusion across organizations and strives to break down barriers to the full participation of women and minorities. She was Ambassador-in-Residence at Oberlin College for 2020 and served as the Co-Chair of the Diversity in National Security working group for the Biden-Harris campaign.

Ms. Abercrombie-Winstanley, a Cleveland native, has degrees from The George Washington University and The Johns Hopkins University and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She was a co-Founder of The Leadership Council for Women in National Security—LCWINS, and has been an active Board member on several organizations committed to excellence in educating and leadership development including the Forum for Education Abroad, College Now Greater Cleveland, and the International Career Advancement Association. She also served on the boards of the Cleveland Museum of Contemporary Art and the Middle East Policy Council. She sings with the Washington Performing Arts Society and has been published in the New York Times Opinion and The Foreign Service Journal. She is the co author of two papers published in the New York Review of Science Fiction on “Diplomacy in Star Trek” and “The Representation of Disability in Star Trek”, and wrote the Forward for “The Young Black Leaders Guide to a Successful Career in International Affairs”. In 2019, she was voted into the American Academy of Diplomacy.



Fanta Aw

Fanta Aw, PhD, has been a dedicated member and leader within NAFSA since 1996 and currently holds the position of Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer. From 2013 to 2016, she served as NAFSA's President and Board Chair. Dr. Aw is a recognized and highly respected figure in the fields of international education and higher education administration.

Dr. Aw dedicated her academic and professional careers to American University (AU) in Washington, D.C., where she achieved several degrees. Her accomplishments include a BS in accounting, an MA in public administration with a specialization in organizational development, and a PhD in sociology with a focus on international education, social stratification, and transnational migration.

Throughout her extensive tenure at AU, Dr. Aw held numerous leadership positions, most recently serving as Vice President of Undergraduate Enrollment, Campus Life, and Inclusive Excellence. Notably, she received recognition as an award-winning teacher, having fulfilled the role of Hurst Senior Professorial Lecturer at AU's School of International Service. In 2023, Dr. Aw's remarkable AU contributions were honored with the Neil Kerwin Alumni Achievement Award. Furthermore, she actively participates as a member of the Global Advisory Board of Times Higher Education and has previously chaired the board of ETS TOEFL.

Originally hailing from Mali, West Africa, Dr. Aw has resided in both East and West Africa, as well as the United States, fostering a broad and diverse cultural perspective. Her passion for global experiences has led her to explore nearly 60 countries. Dr. Aw is a frequent keynote speaker, sharing her expertise on various topics including international educational exchanges, diversity and inclusion in higher education, and U.S. immigration. Her expertise has been acknowledged by major global media outlets, including CNN, Agence France Press, USA Today, Washington Post, The Chronicle of Higher Education, National Public Radio, Middle East Broadcast Corporation, Washington Business Journal, WAMU, Washington Diplomat, and China Daily.



Andrew Gordon

Andrew is an award-winning social impact entrepreneur and CEO & Founder of Includifi, an inclusion management software that helps organizations achieve their belonging and success goals. Prior to Includifi he was CEO of Diversity Abroad, a global education organization he

founded in 2006. He currently serves as a strategic advisor to Diversity Abroad. Andrew has 15+ years of leadership at the intersection of technology, global education, diversity & inclusion, and student success. As a thought leader with a deep passion for equitable access to opportunity, he advises college & university, non-profit, and business leaders on strategies for achieving holistic success for today's students and employees.

A native of California, Andrew is a graduate of the University of San Francisco. He's fluent in Spanish, proficient Portuguese and has studied, worked, and traveled in 60+ countries on 6 continents. He's an alum of INROADS, AVID, and the Association for the International Exchange of Students in Economics and Commerce (AIESEC). Andrew enjoys meaningful travel as well as local culturally immersive experiences. A self-professed 'foodie,' he loves learning about and indulging in the local culinary scene wherever his travels take him.