

SLAVIN
FAMILY
FOUNDATION

Slavin Fellowship Overview

Updated August 1, 2024

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I. Introduction

The Slavin Family Foundation provides support to dedicated students that have a desire to contribute to humanity and the ability and discipline to bring entrepreneurial ideas to life. Our primary activity is the Slavin Fellowship (the “*Fellowship*”), which offers support and mentorship to undergraduate and graduate students of extraordinary potential pursuing entrepreneurial projects.

The Fellowship program leverages the expertise and connections of Foundation chairman Nick Slavin, the Foundation’s board and advisory board, and their networks, to provide advice, support, and connections to Fellowship awardees. Fellows also receive a \$5,000 grant and an invitation to our annual summit.

We designed the Fellowship with the belief that helping and encouraging the most gifted and dedicated young leaders is an efficient and leveraged way that we can make a positive difference in the world. In its support of entrepreneurial students (including those who don’t want to drop out of school), the remote access it provides to a variety of advisors and resources, and its openness to entrepreneurial projects in any field of endeavor, we believe that no program quite like this exists.

As of August 1, 2024, Slavin Fellowships have been awarded to 54 students since the program’s inception in October 2015, with 8 Fellowships awarded since summer 2023. Fellowship applications are submitted by sponsoring faculty members on behalf of students, with Fellowship decisions made by our Selection Committee. Upon the awarding of a Fellowship, we discuss with the Fellow, in coordination with his or her sponsoring professor, ways we might help the Fellow and his or her project. The small number of students awarded Fellowships is intended to facilitate individual attention to each Fellow, resulting in a high quality experience.

The Fellowship program is primarily run “remotely,” with Foundation’s team and contacts, and the Fellows themselves, located across the US and the world. This enables us to most efficiently leverage resources at the greatest convenience to the Fellow.

II. How to Apply

Each application is to come in the form of a nomination of a student by a “sponsoring professor,” a university faculty member (who need not hold the title of “professor”) with whom we can coordinate and who can offer another perspective on the student’s work and needs as needed.

Emails should be sent by a sponsoring professor to apply@slavinfoundation.org with the subject “Nomination of [Name of Student].”

The materials we must receive by email from the sponsoring professor are:

1. *A written statement from the professor.* A written description of the student’s character, attitude, demonstrated self-motivation and self-discipline toward a desired goal, applied knowledge and intelligence, and examples of work.
2. *A written statement from the student.* An explanation of why the student should be considered for the Fellowship, to show his or her thought process.
3. *A copy of the student’s résumé*
4. *A copy of the student’s academic transcript*

We may request additional items upon receiving nominating materials from a professor.

III. Selection Criteria

Applicants must be full-time students in college or graduate school. Slight preference is given to undergraduate applicants. The student must be pursuing, or planning to pursue (with tangible steps taken), an independent entrepreneurial project. We expect that the strongest candidates also will have an academic and extracurricular track record sufficient to gauge their abilities.

Students will be selected based on the following three criteria:

1. *Demonstrated Character, Attitude, Motivation, and Discipline*
 - a. Demonstrated strong character and positive attitude that will attract and inspire high quality teammates, supporters, and results
 - b. Demonstrated motivation and discipline required to bring the project to life
2. *Intellect and Ability*
 - a. Outstanding academic performance and demonstrated intellectual ability to lead an ambitious project
 - b. Outstanding writing ability with evidence of high-order thinking skills and the ability to express thoughts clearly and without jargon

3. *Quality of Independent Project*
 - a. Creativity, originality, vision, and upside potential of the project
 - b. Clarity of the plan, significant tangible steps taken in furtherance of the plan, and a fit between the resources of the Foundation and the project

As discussed above, the nomination process is initiated by a sponsoring professor, who will provide a written statement about the nominated student along with materials from the student, and agree to remain available to assist the Foundation's work with the student throughout the year if he or she is chosen as a Fellow.

IV. Description of the Fellowship Program

Upon the award of the Fellowship, a dialogue will begin between the Fellow, Mr. Slavin, and executive director Bethany Cates, in consultation with the Fellow's sponsoring professor, regarding the Fellow's project and goals and ways we can help him or her.

Unlike many other top programs for entrepreneurs, Fellows in our program are not required to pursue their projects full time. The resources of the Foundation are throughout the United States and beyond, and all of our assistance to the Fellows can occur remotely, allowing them to continue to attend school. There are no set dinners or training or curriculum; the entire program is tailored to each Fellow to further his or her goals. Consistent with this attitude, we will accept Fellowship applications at several deadlines throughout the year (currently three deadlines per year), to better accommodate students. The number of Fellowships awarded per round will vary, and we are not obligated to award Fellowships at each round. The Foundation will endeavor to respond to applications quickly, since we understand the value of time and the importance of responsiveness.

There are no required or favored areas of study or endeavor. The project can be a planned or existing for-profit or non-profit enterprise, or something altogether different.

We understand that projects may also be in different stages, from a concept in the planning stages to something that has already been substantially developed. We are open to projects at a variety of stages.

The Fellowship program is intended to last one year. We hope and expect that relationships built with our team and contacts during that time may last much longer, but we will seek to accomplish as much as possible with each Fellow during the first year and hope that our work together during the year will help set each Fellow up well for the years to come.

Each Fellow will also receive a \$5,000 grant.

V. Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What if there are multiple collaborators on a student project?*

The Fellowship is designed to recognize and support individuals, not teams (except indirectly), and our aim will be to identify the brightest individual stars. We feel that this approach, as is common to other top fellowships and programs recognizing students and entrepreneurs, will still benefit the Fellow's other teammates on a project. We expect the early recognition and support of the Fellow will help the young team enterprise gather additional resources and build momentum.

2. *Why invite nominations several times per year rather than annually?*

Accepting nominations several times per year and awarding Fellowships promptly after nominations (or informing the candidate otherwise) we feel will best serve the students we are seeking to help. We feel it will also better engage the professors making the nominations. It will enable professors to potentially provide more immediate aid and assistance to their most outstanding students.

3. *Will the Foundation help Fellows find investors?*

While some of our Fellows will not be seeking funds for their projects, we understand that, for others, providing introductions to appropriate investors with whom we are connected could be very helpful. We will endeavor to do so when appropriate. We will also be mindful of ways we can help improve projects' appeal and credibility to potential investors or supporters the Fellow may approach.

4. *What does the advisory board do?*

Advisory board members will be periodically apprised of the Foundation's activities and offered opportunities to help the Fellows. Certain advisory board members will also participate in the Fellowship selection process. For advisory board members, the Fellowship presents a concrete vehicle through which they can use the value of their expertise and connections to help elevate worthwhile students pursuing important projects.

5. *Who runs the Fellowship program?*

The Foundation and Fellowship program are managed by Nick Slavin and Bethany Cates, who will also be the primary coordinators between the Foundation, Fellows, and the Fellows' sponsoring professors.

6. *What is the role of the sponsoring professor?*

Each nomination of a student must come from a sponsoring professor, with whom we can coordinate in our assistance of the student if he or she is awarded a Fellowship. The sponsoring professor agrees to be available to consult with the Foundation regarding the student's progress and to be available to discuss ways we might be of help to the student. We understand that professors have many obligations and don't expect a major time commitment of sponsoring professors.

VI. Biographies of Team Members

John R. Adler, Jr.⁽²⁾ Dr. Adler is the Dorothy and Thye King Chan Endowed Professor of Neurosurgery, Emeritus, at Stanford University School of Medicine, where he was also the school's vice chair for innovation and technology; and he is the founder and editor-in-Chief of Cureus.com, a web-based peer-reviewed medical journal. He is also vice president and chief of new clinical applications of Varian Medical Systems. Clinically, Dr. Adler specializes in the treatment of brain tumors, spinal tumors and trigeminal neuralgia. His primary area of academic interest is the development of non-invasive computer controlled tools for neurosurgery. In the fields of surgery, medical imaging and therapeutic radiation, Dr. Adler holds nine United States patents and has authored more than 180 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters. He is best known as the inventor of the CyberKnife Radiosurgical System, an image-guided radiosurgical robotic instrument that noninvasively ablates tumors and lesions throughout the body. Dr. Adler was the founder, CEO, chief medical officer, and chairman of Accuray, where he served from 1991 until 2009. He also founded the CyberKnife Society and served as its president from 2002 until 2009. Dr. Adler graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard College in 1976 and from Harvard Medical School in 1980.

Jeff Andrews.⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾ Dr. Andrews is a co-founder and principal of Sutton McAughan Deaver PLLC, a boutique law firm focusing on intellectual property matters. Since 2009, he has served as an Editor of *Landslide*, an IP publication of the American Bar Association. He has also served as Chair of the Amicus Committee of the Houston Intellectual Property Law Association, and was named a founding member of The Honorable Nancy F. Atlas Intellectual Property American Inn of Court. Previously, Dr. Andrews was a trading desk manager at a global energy company, a post-doctoral researcher on the faculty of Rice University, and started an energy market analysis company under the umbrella of Amerex Energy LLC. Dr. Andrews holds BA and BS degrees from the University of Rochester, an MFS from Yale University, a JD from the University of Houston, and a PhD in Biogeochemistry from Duke University, where he was a NASA Earth Systems Science Fellow.

Bethany Cates.⁽³⁾⁽⁶⁾ Ms. Cates is executive director of the Slavin Family Foundation and director of operations of EES Ventures, a seed-stage venture capital firm. Previously, Ms. Cates managed digital marketing and research at Austin-based communications strategy firm Influence Opinions, and held alumni relations and communications roles at The John Cooper School and Texas Exes, the University of Texas alumni association. Ms. Cates holds a BA from the University of Texas at Austin.

Matthew Hoerl.⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾ Mr. Hoerl is a technologist extending the nature of reality through spatial computing. He is the founder and CEO of Beautiful Things, spatial software for the Apple Vision Pro. Launched in 2024, this top 3D app on visionOS is featured by Apple as the Best of Spatial Computing. Prior to this, Mr. Hoerl co-founded Mona, a decentralized metaverse platform for 3D creators and led it from launch to series A in less than 6 months. Throughout the last decade, Mr. Hoerl has directed complex projects across the entertainment and technology sectors as an entrepreneur and designer. He is named in a dozen patents in the fields of Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality, filed during his time as the Head of AR/VR at Magical Technologies. Mr. Hoerl's interests in preserving and expanding human experiences led him to co-found The Arch Mission Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit designed to archive humanity's most important knowledge and disseminate it across space and time. The Foundation has partnered in eight space missions, including one moon landing, with SpaceX, Blue Origin, and NASA. Prior to this, he won multiple regional student Emmys as a young video journalist and started his career in TV directing post-production for shows on NBC, AMC, Discovery and more.

Daniel Kammen.⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ Dr. Kammen is the Class of 1935 Distinguished Professor of Energy at the University of California, Berkeley, the founding Director of Berkeley's Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory, and Director of the Transportation Sustainability Research Center. He has authored or co-authored 12 books, written more than 300 peer-reviewed journal publications, and testified more than 40 times to U.S. state and federal congressional briefings. He is a frequent contributor to or commentator in international news media, including *Newsweek*, *Time*, *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *The Financial Times*. Dr. Kammen has appeared on *60 Minutes* (twice), *Nova*, *Frontline*, and hosted the six-part Discovery Channel series *Ecopolis*. He has founded or is on the board of over 10 companies, including Renewable Funding and Enphase Energy (IPO: 2012). Previously, he was Chair of the Science, Technology and Environmental Policy Program at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton and has served as a contributing or coordinating lead author on various reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. During 2010-2011 he served as the World Bank Group's first Chief Technical Specialist for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency. Dr. Kammen received his BA in physics from Cornell and MA and PhD degrees from Harvard.

Sean Kellman.⁽⁴⁾ Mr. Kellman is the founder of a company developing innovative tools for collaboration and a partner at EES Ventures, a seed-stage venture capital firm. Previously, he practiced law at Hogan Lovells LLP, where he represented companies in complex acquisition/sale deals across these sectors, structured venture capital and private equity fund formations, and advised fund investors, including international development banks and universities. As a JAG officer in the Air Force Reserve, Mr. Kellman served with the 460th Space Wing and was the Top Graduate in his Commissioned Officer Training class. Growing up, he was a professional actor, appearing in plays, television, and movies. Mr. Kellman received his AB, *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, from Princeton, MPP from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and JD, *magna cum laude*, from Harvard Law School.

Yueh-Lin (Lynn) Loo.⁽²⁾ Dr. Loo is the Theodora D. '78 and William H. Walton III '74 Professor in Engineering and Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering at Princeton University, where her research group focuses on developing flexible electronics and plastic solar cells. She is also Deputy Director of the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment at Princeton. In this capacity, Dr. Loo has developed a university-wide corporate affiliates program in energy and the environment to foster partnerships between Princeton faculty and the corporate world. Dr. Loo was a Fellow at NewWorld Capital Group while she was on sabbatical from Princeton. Prior to joining Princeton, Dr. Loo was Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at Austin. She also spent a year in the Physical Sciences Division of Bell Laboratories, Lucent Technologies, as a Post-Doctoral Member of Technical Staff. Dr. Loo is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum. Dr. Loo received BSE degrees in Chemical Engineering and Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania and a PhD in Chemical Engineering from Princeton University.

Erica Lutes.⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾ Ms. Lutes is the Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission at the US Embassy in Belgium, a position she has held since 2012 when she became the youngest ever Executive Director of a Fulbright Commission at the age of 31. She is a specialist in European and U.S. higher education, and is a visiting lecturer at the University College of Brussels (HUB part of the University of Leuven) in business and culture. Previously, she worked on the European Sales desk for Goldman Sachs in their Equity Department and served as the staff aide to U.S. Ambassador to Belgium. Ms. Lutes is a graduate of Mount Holyoke and holds three master's degrees from the University of Leuven (Belgium) in political economy, conflict and peace studies, and international business.

Nick Slavin.⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾⁽⁵⁾ Mr. Slavin is the CEO and co-founder of Fuzionaire, which is developing new technologies and ventures based on discoveries in fundamental chemistry made in Nobel Laureate Robert Grubbs' lab at Caltech (with backing from Naval Ravikant, Schmidt Futures, and others at both Fuzionaire and its cancer radiopharmaceutical affiliate Fuzionaire Theranostics); founder and managing partner

of EES Ventures, a seed-stage venture capital firm; co-founder of the Arch Mission Foundation, building a solar system scale archive of human knowledge, and whose space missions alongside Elon Musk, Blue Origin, NASA, and others include the Solar Library (2018), Lunar Library (2019), and Lunar Library II (2024); and founder and chairman of the Slavin Family Foundation. As an 18-year-old senior at Yale, based on his academic research, he founded an energy company whose assets were acquired. For seven years, Mr. Slavin was a corporate attorney at Norton Rose Fulbright and Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, which at the time had been ranked the #1 corporate law firm by *Corporate Board Member* magazine for 14 consecutive years. He holds a BA in Economics, *magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, from Yale, and a JD from Harvard Law School.

Olav Sorenson.⁽²⁾ Dr. Sorenson is the Frederick Frank '54 and Mary C. Tanner Professor of Management and Director of the Core Curriculum at the Yale School of Management and has studied, taught courses on, and participated in the venture capital industry for over twenty years. He has investigated the important role social capital plays in entrepreneurial success and the relationships between basic science and innovation, and has won numerous awards for his scholarship and teaching. Dr. Sorenson serves as a Department Editor at Management Science and Editor of the SSRN Journal on Entrepreneurship and the Social Sciences, and holds or has held editorial positions at 10 other journals. He has also served on the board of managers of PrairieGold Venture Partners, a venture capital firm focused on technology companies located in the Midwest. Prior to coming to Yale, Dr. Sorenson held the Jeffrey S. Skoll Chair in Technical Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the University of Toronto. He has also held professorships at London Business School, UCLA, and Chicago, and visiting appointments at universities in Hong Kong, Milan, Madrid, Melbourne, and Singapore. He received his AB from Harvard and his MA and PhD degrees from Stanford.

Nova Spivack.⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ Mr. Spivack is CEO of Bottlenose, a Los Angeles-based company that provides real-time listening, analytics, and social search tools for marketers. He founded the semantic web venture Radar Networks in 2003, business incubator Lucid Ventures in 2001, and in 1999 and 2000 helped co-found and build the in-house intellectual property incubator of SRI and Sarnoff Laboratories that launched SIRI, later acquired by Apple. In 1994 he co-founded EarthWeb, Inc., one of the first Internet companies (IPO: 1998), which later spun off Dice.com (IPO: 2007). He is also a co-founder and investor in several other ventures, including Live Matrix, which was sold to OVGuide in 2012; The Daily Dot, which provides an online newspaper about Web culture; and was the first outside investor in Klout, which measures social influence. In addition, he is an active angel investor and advisor to startups including Cambrian Genomics, Sensentia, Publish This, WhoKnows.com, NextIT, Chronos Trading, and Energy Magnification Corporation. Mr. Spivack is the grandson of Peter F. Drucker, widely considered "the father of modern management," and writes about

the future of the Internet and topics concerning search, social media, personalization, information filtering, entrepreneurship, Web technology and Web applications.

Victor Strecher.⁽²⁾ Dr. Strecher is the Director for Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, and founder of HealthMedia Inc. and the UM Center for Health Communications Research, a collaborative research-focused organization of scientists, software engineers, and artists. Dr. Strecher and the organizations he founded—the University of Michigan Center for Health Communications Research and HealthMedia, Inc. (acquired by Johnson & Johnson in 2008)—have won numerous national and international awards including the Secretary of Health and Human Services Award for Innovations in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, two Smithsonian Awards, four International Health and Medical Media Awards (the Freddie), the International Film Festival Silver Screen Award, Health Evolution Partners Innovations in Healthcare Award, two eHealthcare Leadership Awards, the National Business Coalition on Health's Mercury Award. In 2010, Dr. Strecher won the University of Michigan's Distinguished Innovator Award and his School of Public Health's Award for Translating Research into Practice. Dr. Strecher is author of *On Purpose*, and recently launched a project designed to help individuals find greater purpose in their lives, to help align daily living with this purpose, and to develop vitality for achieving this purpose. He received his PhD at the University of Michigan School of Public Health in 1983.

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- (1) *Member of the Board of Directors*
 - (2) *Member of the Advisory Board*
 - (3) *Member of the Selection Committee*
 - (4) *Special Advisor*
 - (5) *Chairman and Trustee*
 - (6) *Executive Director*