

Iacocca Institute

IACOCCA INSTITUTE®

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The Iacocca Institute creates transformative experiences that challenge, develop and empower the next generation of global leaders. Its programs are immersive, highly diverse, cross-cultural, and experiential. The Institute collaborates with others to bring the impact of these experiences to young leaders throughout the Lehigh community and across the globe. Over the years, the Institute has built an extensive global network of university and industry partners, and its alumni network spans more than 150 countries.

Current Iacocca Institute programs include:

Iacocca Global Village for Future Leaders® (GV)

The Iacocca Global Village engages advanced university students and young professionals from around the globe in an immersive intercultural learning experience that builds participants' leadership and entrepreneurship skills and demonstrates the positive impact of culture and diversity in an organizational setting and the power of international networks. During the five-week summer program, Villagers live and work together on campus, engage in consulting projects for international organizations, and participate in leadership development and culture-sharing experiences. The program strives for extreme diversity—60 to 90 participants from 30-40+ countries, including the U.S.—to maximize learning. Now in its 25th anniversary year, the Global Village has more than 2250 alumni from 140 countries who represent a vibrant and connected network, and many GV alumni continue to serve the program as mentors, experts, and clients throughout their careers. Each year, the Institute is able to accept a modest number of highly qualified current Lehigh undergraduate and graduate students into the Global Village program.

Lehigh University alumni are also encouraged to apply. The Iacocca Institute funds 50% of the program fees for all Lehigh students, faculty/staff, and alumni and also awards 5-7 full program fee scholarships for Lehigh students each year. New for 2020-21, the Institute will launch a GV Virtual experience that will engage accepted GV 2021 Villagers in virtual opportunities throughout the academic year prior to their on-campus summer Global Village experience.

Iacocca Global Entrepreneurship Intensive (formerly PA School for Global Entrepreneurship)

Now in its 21st year, the Iacocca Global Entrepreneurship Intensive (IGEI) brings top U.S. and international high school students together for a four-week residential intensive global leadership and entrepreneurship learning experience. This summer program focuses on challenging students as they develop greater cultural awareness and leadership skills and learn business practices with other students, faculty, and entrepreneurs. To date, IGEI participants have included over 1285 students from 65 countries and 20 states. During summer 2021, in addition to the core four-week program on the Lehigh campus, the Institute plans to offer a two-week IGEI San Francisco-Silicon Valley for high school students at the Lehigh@NasdaqCenter, a unique setting resulting from a partnership between Lehigh University and the Nasdaq Entrepreneurial Center. This special IGEI program allows students to build entrepreneurship and leadership skills while experiencing the unique entrepreneurial culture of Silicon Valley.

Iacocca Global Village on the Move (GVOTM)

Created in collaboration with the Institute's network of global university and organizational partners, Global Village on the Move (GVOTM) programs are customized 7-10 day programs that provide immersive leadership and cultural experiences, tailored to regional themes, for local and global professionals, including Institute and Lehigh alumni.

The Institute has worked with partners in Peru, Spain, Australia, United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Italy, China, Russia, and India to deliver GVOTM programs in 10 cities on four continents over the past 20 years.

Additional custom programs and partnership opportunities

The Institute regularly develops customized experiences and hosts other intensive leadership programs that align with its mission. In summer 2021, the Institute will host 25-30 Fellows from sub-Saharan Africa for a third Mandela Washington Fellowship Institute, a program of the U.S. Department of State. In addition, the Institute will host a group of 25-30 high-school students from Osaka, Japan for a one-week business and entrepreneurship intensive residential experience.

The Institute regularly hosts student interns for academic year and summer projects and positions, and is always open to collaboration with other Lehigh departments and colleges on new projects and programs.

The Iacocca Institute was established in 1988 in partnership with Lehigh alumnus and automotive icon Lee A. Iacocca '45, former chairman and chief executive officer, Chrysler Corporation.

For more information, contact Kira Mendez, Director, Iacocca Institute, Iacocca Hall, Lehigh University, 111 Research Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18015.