

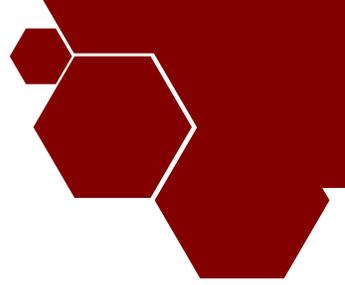
2023

DCI Annual Report

Engaging for Impact

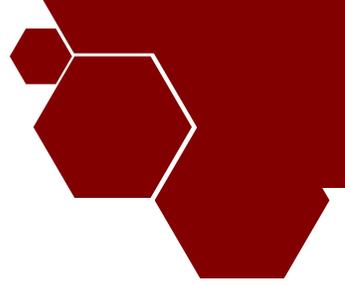


Stanford Distinguished Careers Institute
October 2023



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To Our Community,

As we launch our 10th cohort on campus, we are excited to share our first Annual Report with you. Over the last few years, DCI has experienced several major transitions, including institutional shifts during the pandemic, leadership changes, and the continued growth and evolution of the program. We applied the key tenets of DCI's approach throughout this period – adopting a growth mindset and piloting opportunities, evaluating, reflecting, and identifying what “fits” in our changing context, while staying true to our core values.

Thanks to the hard work and support of many, DCI has emerged stronger than ever and is well-positioned for sustainability and future success. A few key highlights follow.

Since its inception, DCI has been fortunate to have dedicated, wise, and empathetic leaders. From our founding Faculty Director, Phil Pizzo, to his successor, Richard Saller (now serving as Stanford's interim President), to our new interim Faculty Director, Sara Singer, we have been lucky to have such strong champions and impressive academic leadership. Likewise, the staff has been critical to DCI's success, supporting Fellows and delivering exceptional service and outstanding programming, while navigating uncharted waters and numerous challenges since 2020. We are all aligned and fully committed to delivering on DCI's Vision, Mission, and Approach on page 4 of this report.

The IDEAL Scholarship Fund, launched in 2021, allowed us to expand our recruiting efforts resulting in our most diverse applicant pool to date in 2022. As a result, the 41 Fellows that comprise the Class of 2023, include 51% women, 22% international Fellows, 27% Fellows from underrepresented groups, and a wide diversity of professional backgrounds and experiences, which will further enrich the program. We are thankful to all of our alumni who refer candidates to us as we launch the admissions process for the Class of 2024 this fall.

The demand for student and faculty engagement with Fellows and alumni has skyrocketed since our full return to campus post-pandemic. Community engagement initiatives, including Special Interest Groups and Intergenerational Engagement opportunities through dciX, as well as affinity groups and student-led events, served over 300 Stanford students last year. In the coming year, we look forward to strengthening new and existing partnerships with student clubs and first-year students in Stanford's [COLLEGE program](#), as well as with the [Doerr School of Sustainability](#), [Knight-Hennessy Scholars](#), [MSx students](#), the [Stanford Technology Ventures Program \(STVP\)](#), [Cardinal Ventures](#), the [Stanford Center for Longevity Design Challenge](#), and more.

We would be remiss if we didn't give a huge shout-out to the DCI community. Much as you have supported and empowered each other, you have sustained, supported, and delighted us! Your commitment to making DCI the best that it can be, and to helping us along the way, has made all this possible. Thank you for your engagement and many contributions to our continued success!

Katie Connor
Executive Director

DCI Vision And Mission

Vision

Stanford's Distinguished Careers Institute (DCI) aspires to create a new model for higher education, offering intergenerational learning, community, and opportunities for impact throughout the lifespan.

Mission

DCI inspires accomplished individuals to thrive in their next chapter by providing opportunities to discover, connect, and contribute through engagement within Stanford's diverse academic community.

Approach

The DCI program provides a year of thoughtful reflection and reinvigoration, which our alumni affirm is a dynamic and "life-changing" experience. We do this through the three pillars of Purpose, Community, and Wellness, by offering:

- Academic discovery and immersion through access to courses and programs across [Stanford's seven schools](#).
- A stimulating and supportive new community of colleagues and a robust network of Stanford faculty and staff.
- Curated programming and resources to support physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing.
- Holistic exploration of individual meaning and purpose in later life.
- Mutually beneficial opportunities for intergenerational collaboration, learning, and mentoring.
- Exploration of opportunities for meaningful future endeavors.
- Ongoing learning and engagement with a vibrant alumni network.

DCI Program

DCI takes a holistic approach to supporting Fellows as they explore, reflect, and plan for their next chapter. Based on Fellows' feedback, the program has evolved to incorporate unique DCI-only offerings in memoir, life-design, contemplative practice, and physical fitness. Fellows work with Faculty Mentors, Purpose Pathway Liaisons, and Wellness Specialists who help them connect with academic resources, courses, and faculty across campus. Weekly discussions with faculty speakers and Fellows' shared stories on transformative moments in their lives help create a strong and supportive community that persists beyond the fellowship year.

Purpose



9 Purpose Pathways



Arts and the Humanities



Health and Healthcare



Business, Leadership and Entrepreneurship



Human Rights and Social Justice



Education, Teaching and Learning



International Studies and Programs



Energy and the Environment



Social Sciences, Policy and Public Service

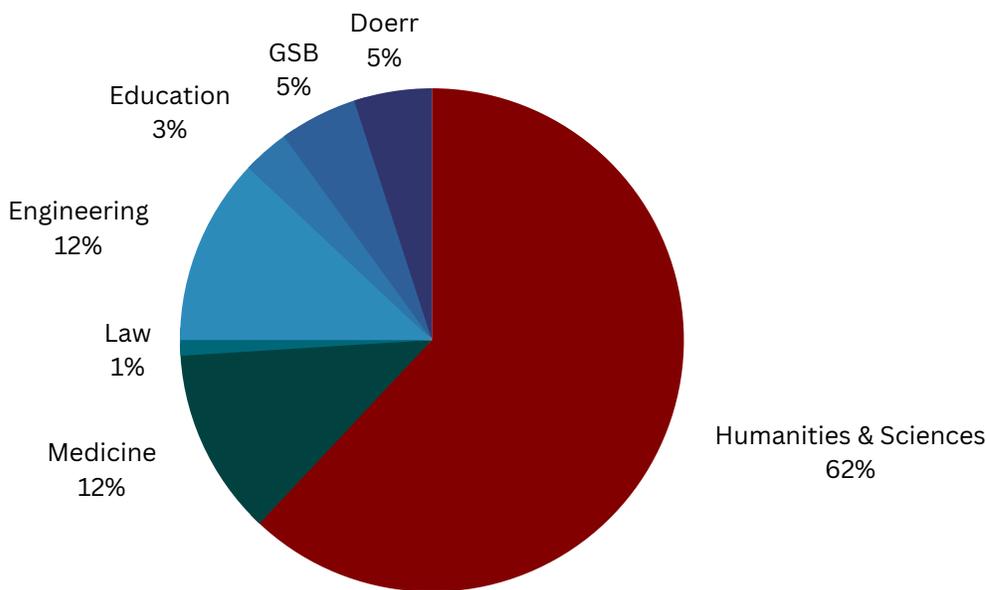


Engineering Sciences and Design

Community

The DCI community provides many ways to connect, enabling strong cohort bonds and lifelong friendships. Additionally, Fellows and alumni are actively engaged with the Stanford community via Community Dinners, virtual Colloquia, and an annual Community Celebration, which provide ongoing opportunities to connect and learn.

DCI Course Participation by Stanford School, Academic Year (AY) 22/23:



73% of faculty indicated that the **quality of class discussions was enriched by DCI participation.** (n=259)

“DCI Fellows bring a great deal of success and humility to the classroom ... offering a chance to have the best and the brightest from different generations coming together.” - *Stanford faculty member*

2022-23 Community Events:

- Fall 2022 Colloquium - “*Optimizing Human Performance*,” led by Scott Delp, Director of the Wu Tsai Human Performance Alliance.
- Fall 2022 Community Dinner - featuring the *Stanford Jazz Ensemble*
- Winter 2023 Colloquium - “*The Future of Work*,” led by Nick Bloom, William Eberle Professor of Economics at Stanford.
- Winter 2023 Dinner - “*Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do*” with Jennifer Eberhardt, Professor, Department of Psychology.
- Spring 2023 Community Celebration - with *Life Journey Inspiration Award Winner*, Claude Steele, Lucie Stern Professor in the Social Sciences, emeritus.
- Spring 2023 DCI Commencement - Launching the Class of 2022!



Wellness

73% of the Class of 2022 **enrolled in wellness-related courses.** Up from 62% in the previous academic year.



69% of Fellows reported a **new-found interest & passion in mindfulness and fitness** after completing DCI.

“ Before I came, Health & Wellness wasn't on my list of priorities or interests - Now it's on the top of my list!”

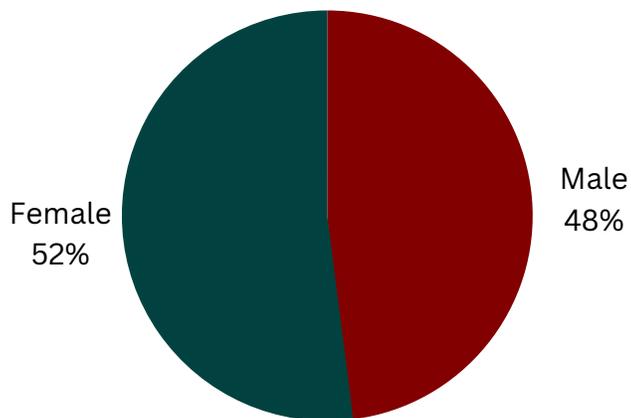
-DCI Fellow Class of 2022

Fellows

The Distinguished Careers Institute was launched in 2013 and welcomed its first class of 31 Fellows and Partners in 2015. Since then, over 340 Fellows and Partners with diverse backgrounds and experiences have come to DCI from across the globe to learn, explore, reflect, and connect as they prepare to contribute in their next chapters.

DCI Demographics (2015 - 2023)

Gender Distribution:



20% of all DCI Fellows and alumni are ***Stanford Alumni***

Geographic Distribution, all Classes:

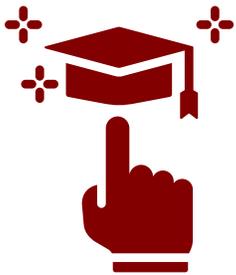
- 57%** West US
- 17%** Northeast US
- 15%** International
- 6%** Southeast US
- 2%** Southwest US
- 3%** Midwest US



Class of 2023

The 41 members of the DCI Class of 2023, who joined us on-campus this September, include leaders from the arts, education equity, environmental justice, finance, international relations, public service, and technology. They bring diverse perspectives and interests to the program and the classroom and plan to pursue a variety of purpose pathways throughout the year.

[Meet the 2023 Class Here](#) >



24.4% identified as *first - generation college students*

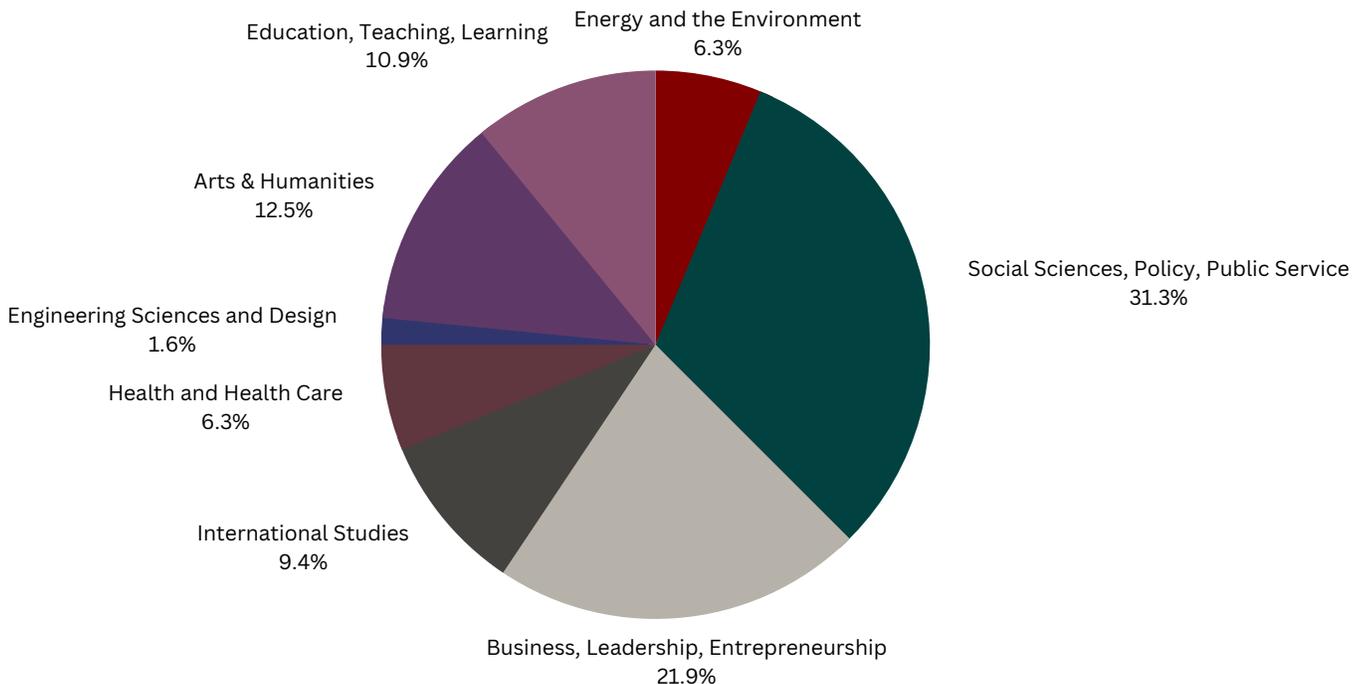
DCI Class of 2023:



- 80.6%** United States
- 4.9%** Brazil
- 4.9%** India
- 2.4%** Colombia
- 2.4%** Hong Kong
- 2.4%** Philippines
- 2.4%** United Kingdom



Purpose Pathway Participation



Engagement

Community and intergenerational engagement are key components of the DCI experience. One of the highlights of DCI is the chance to work and learn alongside students in the classroom, as well as on projects and start-ups across the University. dciX, DCI's initiative for ongoing engagement of Fellows and alumni, provides opportunities for continued learning and impact on a wide variety of topics. In addition, DCI Fellows and alumni served as project mentors, coaches, and speakers, providing strategic expertise, as well as invaluable career advice and connections, to over 10 student organizations in the past year.



dciX Initiatives

7 Special Interest Groups

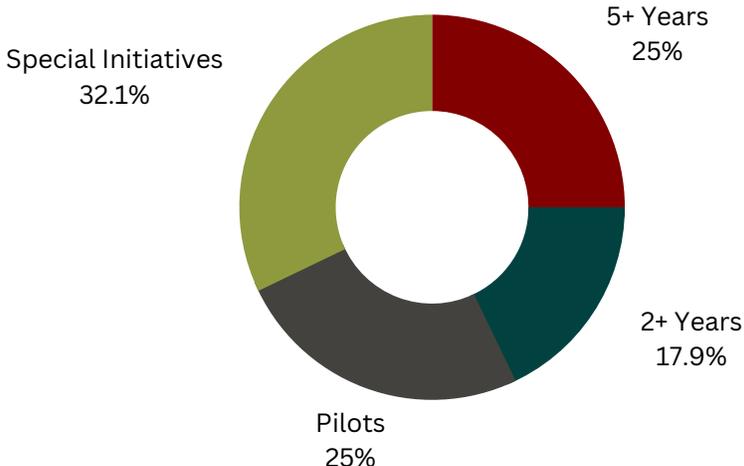
- DCI on Boards
- Longevity Innovations
- DCI Speaks
- Salon Speaker Series
- DCI Writes
- Sustainability, Climate, and Energy
- Impact Investing

3 Affinity Groups

- DCI Ideaworks
- Democracy
- Racial Justice and Equity Initiatives

Student Impact

Duration and Type of Collaborations with Campus Partners:



Number of Undergraduates Engaged in dciX Intergenerational Programs with DCI, AY22/23:



Number of Graduate Students Engaged in dciX Intergenerational Programs with DCI, AY22/23:



26
Intergenerational Engagement Partnerships since 2018

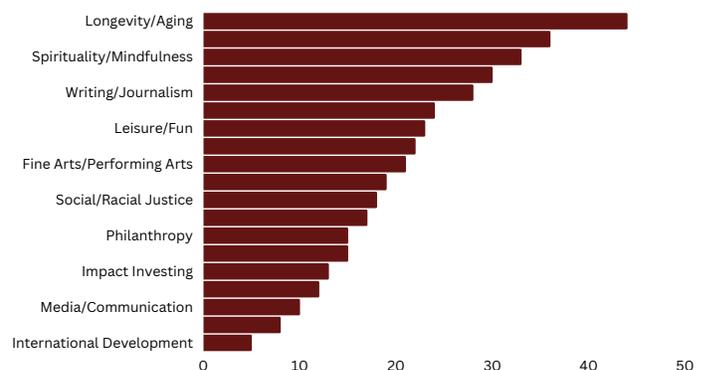
Impact

During the course of their fellowship, Fellows find new passions and interests, as well as a new community that often supports or joins them in future pursuits. From writing, to teaching entrepreneurship and math, from registering voters, to caring for aging parents, the paths that Fellows pursue post-DCI are as varied as the individuals themselves. The program is designed to meet Fellows “where they are” and helps them to uncover not just **what they want to do** in their next chapter, but more importantly, **who they want to be**. DCI and Stanford provide a unique environment for discovery, as well as the time and space for reflection and discernment, as Fellows chart their course for the future.

89% of Alumni *indicated their primary interest area changed* as a result of their DCI year.



New Passions and Interests Developed at DCI, # of Fellows by Area:



DCI Fellows are making an impact at:



“My DCI year was the most amazing year of my life [...] I feel re-energized, inspired, and prepared to pursue my next chapter...addressing the inequality issues plaguing society today.”

-DCI Fellow Class of 2020

DCI Profiles of Impact

In [Profiles of Impact](#), alumni share how their unique DCI experience has contributed to a variety of purpose-driven projects pursued after they complete the DCI program.



Never Stop Exploring: Attorney to Journalist

Joe Dworetzky (2018) credits the DCI experience with his personal comfort level and success as a journalism student. Joe emphasizes that his experiences at DCI allowed him to clarify and pursue the things that are most important to him going forward.

ReMAKE UK A Second Chance For Ex-Offenders

“Stanford pivoted me from the corporate world. I decided I would use my experience as a judge and lawyer dealing with ex-offenders to create a platform to help that group succeed in the outside world.” Returning home, Kameel Khan (2017) brought the “ReMade” concept from Stanford Law School to Kings College, University of London, teaching entrepreneurship skills to former inmates.



Doing Small Things in Great Ways

“Most people think, ‘I can’t make a difference, so why do anything?’ The truth is everyone can do something - no matter how small. Collectively small efforts add up to significant change,” remarks Dianne Millner (2018), who has connected groups of Fellows with non-profit organizations in the Oakland community.

Scratching the Itch to Give Back and Keep Learning

Retiring from her role as Vice President, General Counsel Americas and founder/leader of the Women’s Initiative (WIN) for 3-D software maker Dassault Systèmes might have felt like “stepping into the abyss,” said Debbie Dean (2018-19). Instead, DCI presented an opportunity to “step onto an island... an oasis of growth, companionship, and new experiences.”



Empathy in Action

“I think it’s fair to say that almost everything I’m working on today is DCI-related,” says Anne Kenner (2016), who developed an Empathy & Leadership Curriculum for Gateway High School in San Francisco. “I continue to draw inspiration and delight from the extraordinary friendships I made during my DCI year and with Fellows in other cohorts.”



Nexel Collaborative

Stanford has played a leading role in the formation and growth of the Nexel Collaborative, a nonprofit networking alliance of colleges and universities established to shift the landscape of higher education to serve a longer, healthier lifespan. Inspired by DCI's core concepts, midlife transition programs are underway at post-secondary schools across North America and Europe. Members meet regularly to share ideas, inspiration, best practices, and valuable resources.



7 Public + 7 Private



**11 in North America
3 international**

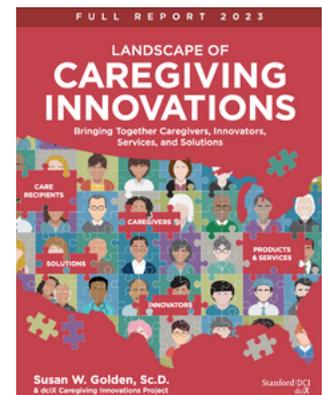
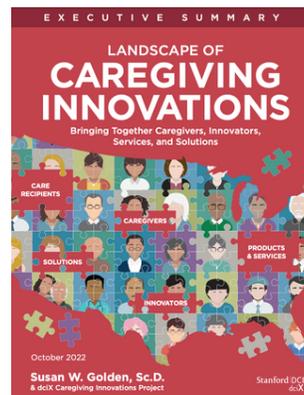
Nexel Participating Programs as of September, 2023:

Boston College - [Companions](#); Claremont Graduate Univ. - [SOAR](#); Harvard Univ. - [Advanced Leadership Initiative](#); Indiana Univ. Kokomo - [KEY Academy](#); Loyola Univ. Chicago - [Ignatian Wisdom Fellowship](#); Oxford Univ. (England) - [Next Horizons](#); Queen's Univ. (Canada) - [Advanced Leadership for Social Impact](#); Stanford Univ. - [Distinguished Careers Institute](#); Univ. Chicago - [Leadership and Society Initiative](#); Univ. Colorado at Denver - [Change Makers](#); Univ. Minnesota - [Advanced Careers](#); Univ. Notre Dame - [Inspired Leadership Initiative](#); Univ. St. Gallen (Switzerland) - [NEXT](#); Univ. Texas at Austin - [TOWER Fellows](#)

Pivotal

Click to Read the Report:

The Stanford Distinguished Careers Institute released their findings and recommendations for the Landscape of Caregiving Innovations and the Blue Print Project which calls for a public-private partnership to develop a care connector. Learn more [here](#).



Research

Stanford DCI uses a longitudinal, mixed-methods research approach to evaluate the impact of DCI on longevity, intergenerational learning, and society. By participating in research, DCI Fellows provide essential data to inform our understanding of the program's effect on a range of topics from purpose to intergenerational and social engagement, wellness through the lifespan, and more. These data allow collaboration across Stanford and research efforts at diverse institutions planning to establish other mid-life transition programs.

Evaluating the impact:



On Fellows



In the Classroom



Short & Long-term

Measuring changes in:



Purpose



Community



Wellness

Research methods:



SURVEYS:

A pre- and post-survey for all DCI Fellows

DCI alumni receive surveys biennially thereafter



INTERVIEWS:

Two interviews during cohort year

DCI alumni participate in follow-up interviews biennially thereafter

Stanford Distinguished Careers Institute

A place to...



Discover



dci.stanford.edu/



dci.stanford.edu/media-room/



Connect



dci-information@stanford.edu



Connect with a Fellow >



Contribute



dci.stanford.edu/engaging-at-stanford/

Support DCI

Meet Our Leadership Team



SARA SINGER

FACULTY DIRECTOR, INTERIM AND RESEARCH
DIRECTOR

Sara Singer, a Professor of Medicine at the Stanford University School of Medicine and a Professor of Organizational Behavior, by courtesy, at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, is DCI's Faculty Director and leads our research team. Sara's research in the field of healthcare management and policy is informed by her interdisciplinary training in health policy, organizational behavior, and general management. Her combination of interests and depth of experience in the fields of medicine and the study of organizations is well-suited to leading DCI and to examining the potential impacts of DCI on individuals and institutions.



KATHERINE CONNOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Katie Connor was a DCI Fellow in the Class of 2018-19 and joined the DCI team in July 2020. She works closely with the Faculty Director, other Stanford faculty, and external advisors to develop the strategic vision and goals for the program and ensures that plans are implemented to achieve them. Prior to DCI, Katie supported undergraduates as they transitioned to their first careers at the University of Colorado's Leeds School of Business. She is excited about the opportunities for Stanford students and Fellows to work together as they navigate what's next.



REBECCA TAYLOR

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Becca Taylor oversees program development and evaluation, advises DCI Fellows on Stanford curricula and programs, and manages connections with Faculty Mentors and Purpose Pathway Liaisons. Becca has worked in higher education administration for nearly two decades, with positions in student services, case management, alumni and donor relations, and organizational development. Prior to DCI, she spent five years at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, and looks forward to nourishing DCI's strong partnerships across the campus.

[See the Full DCI Team Here](#)



Contact Us



Contact Us



dci-information@stanford.edu



dci.stanford.edu/

What's Next?

As DCI enters its 10th year on campus, we look forward to continuing to evolve, improve, and diversify the program. New initiatives piloted in 2023 included a DCI study abroad program in Florence, as well as additional workshops focused on transitions for Fellows and recent alumni. Further academic support was created with the addition of 8 faculty liaisons associated with DCI's Purpose Pathways. We are excited to have launched two new Affinity Groups - including one on Democracy and DCI Ideaworks, which bring alumni together to connect around new opportunities. We have built partnerships across campus with the offices of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and the Vice Provost for Graduate Education, the Vice Provost for Digital Education, and our colleagues in the Office of Community Engagement, and in Continuing Studies. In the coming year, we look forward to learning from and possibly expanding pilot initiatives, as well as to finding new ways for the program and Fellows to **discover, connect, and contribute** going forward.

All of this would not be possible if not for the time and contributions of many. We are indebted to Stanford University and the many faculty, administrators, and staff members who have supported DCI, welcomed our Fellows into the classroom, and helped us and our Fellows navigate campus and the student experience. Thank you to all of the undergraduate and graduate students who have embraced learning alongside Fellows and have shared your perspectives, boundless energy, and inspiring creativity and passion with us. Thank you to our alumni and our Global Advisory Council for your many contributions and your dedication to DCI's success and sustainability. And, last but not least, a huge thanks to the DCI Team - your passion, professionalism, humor, and humility are critical to delivering this transformative and impactful program!

NOTE: The data included in this report were collected by DCI through end-of-quarter program surveys, DCI research interviews and questionnaires, and faculty, student, and alumni surveys, as well as from data reported in the admissions process.

Thank you!



Class of 2023



"As I reflect on my last four years at Stanford, I wanted to acknowledge the transformative role that DCI Fellows have and continue to play. Thank you for designing and implementing a program that not only positively impacts the DCI Fellows and their partners but the Stanford community as a whole."

- Stanford Student, BS/MA 2021