Center for Global Learning and Innovation
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

University Outreach and Engagement
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

GLOBAL YOUTH

International Youth Day 2026: Innovation Collaboratory

Youth Voices, Community Futures

Wednesday
August 12, 2026
9:00-11:00 AM EST

Please scan to receive the event link

9:00-9:03

Youth and Global Learning Video Time

Five Youth Ambassadors From Michigan State University

9:03-9:10

Opening Remarks

Kwesi Brookins
Vice Provost for University Outreach and Engagement

9:10-10:40

Presentations and Professional Development

Five Panels with presenters, youth coordinators, and experts

10:40-10:55

MindStorm: Igniting Youth Creativity

10:55-11:00

Closing Remarks

Opal Leeman Bartzis
Assistant Dean for Global Learning and Innovation
Executive Director, Office for Education Abroad

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GLOBAL 8 YOUTH

Presentations and Professional Development Panels

Youth Coordinator: Kunti Adhikari
Expert: Volodymyr V. Tarabara
Director, Center for European and Eurasian Studies
Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering

01

- **Presenter 1: Mengyan Ma (USA)**

Understanding Adolescents' Beliefs, Information-Seeking Behaviors, and Perceived Barriers to Avoid THC-Infused Beverages: A Qualitative Interview Study

- **Presenter 2: Mukta Sharma (India)**

Small Events, Big Impact: A Youth-Led Approach to Postdoc Community Building

- **Presenter 3: Cheryl Kickett-Tucker (Australia)**

Moombaki Koortaboodja: Honouring Aboriginal Cultural Learning Journeys

- **Presenter 4: Stacey Forsyth (USA)**

Build a Better Book: Youth Engineering Design for a More Accessible World

Youth Coordinator: Marie Shibata
Expert: Leo C. Zulu
Director, African Studies Center
Professor, Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences

02

- **Presenter 1: Natasha Mulenga (Zambia)**

From Dumpsite to Hope: How Youth Are Transforming Communities Through Sustainable Gardening

- **Presenter 2: Christopher Omowa (Nigeria)**

Fusing Futures: How Art, Technology, and Youth Entrepreneurship Are Rebuilding Communities from the Inside Out

- **Presenter 3: Peter Jaeger (USA)**

High School Research Internships - Providing Opportunities, Removing Barriers, Shaping Futures

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Presentations and Professional Development Panels

Youth Coordinator: Carolina Azevedo
Expert: Debra Thornton-Fitzpatrick
Associate Director for Retention and Transitions, University Advising

03

- **Presenter 1: Emmanuel Chinoso Okpalaku (Nigeria)**

From Campus to Community: How Youth Advocacy and Digital Innovation Are Redefining Social Work Leadership

- **Presenter 2: Janelle Yao (USA)**

Leaders for Youth Sports: Empowering Every Child Through the Power of Play

- **Presenter 3: Ngwantshabu Bridget Mkhondo (South Africa)**

Organic Vegetable Production: Empowering Youth Farmers through Business Management and Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices Training

Youth Coordinator: Betül Demiray Sandıraz
Expert: Takisha V. LaShore
MSW Program Director, College of Social Science

04

- **Presenter 1: Priyanka Kothari (USA)**

From My History to Our History: Centering Student Experiences for Global Learning

- **Presenter 2: Emmanuela Ezeakacha (Nigeria)**

From Individual Contributor to Community Builder: How Mentorship Multiplies Youth Impact

- **Presenter 3: Tracy Vongai Mapfumo (USA)**

From Seed to Shelf, From Local to Global: Innovation for Community Impact through Social Entrepreneurship

- **Presenter 4: Calvin Manika (Zimbabwe)**

Creating a transitional ubuntu corridor from Hwange, Zimbabwe to Flint, United States - the impact of cultural exchange dialogues

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Presentations and Professional Development Panels

Youth Coordinator: Ethan Tyaba Kigundu
Experts: Brooke Hutchful, Program Coordinator, Undergraduate Studies
Mohammad Uzair Rahil, Research Assistant, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

05

- **Presenter 1: Peserverance Muzeya (Zimbabwe)**

From Food Loss to Food Security: How a Young Zimbabwean Woman Built a Solar-Powered Enterprise That Feeds Communities, Pays Farmers Fairly, and Prevents Climate Emissions Simultaneously

- **Presenter 2: David Aondona Kor (Nigeria)**

From Waste to Value: How Youth-Led Innovation Is Strengthening Food Security and Sustainable Communities in Nigeria

- **Presenter 3: Martin Salanda (Zambia)**

From Fertilizer to Food Sovereignty: Reclaiming Zambia's FISP Through Digital Accountability and Youth-Led Governance Innovation

- **Presenter 4: Toluwani Kushimo (Nigeria)**

Voices That Matter: Engaging Teenage Girls in Underserved Communities to Claim Their Rights and End Gender-Based Violence

Learn more about all the Presenters, Youth Group Coordinators, and Experts here!

About MSU's Center for Global Learning

The Center for Global Learning and Innovation is a dynamic new hub that reinforces MSU's commitment to internationalization. The center brings together key programs and fosters collaboration across colleges and departments while enhancing opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to engage with global learning. With a focus on innovation, collaboration and faculty development, the center provides structure and resources to drive a holistic global learning strategy that will equip Spartans with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in a modern, globally connected society.