



**Brain Injury  
Alliance**  
ARIZONA

## BIAAZ Mentors Mandela Fellows on Creating Inclusive Communities in Africa

**T**he Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona's (BIAAZ) Executive Director Carrie Collins-Fadell had the exciting opportunity to meet with and speak to the Nelson Mandela Washington Fellows this summer. The fellows are young leaders from sub-Saharan Africa who serve the public through governmental and non-governmental organizations, community-based nonprofits, or volunteerism. They are working towards building communities that are inclusive for individuals living with disabilities, including the invisible one- brain injury.

Carrie was joined by BIAAZ Advisory Board Member Steve Copley at a panel discussion on the role of nonprofits in building inclusive



Executive Director Carrie with Simon Touloung, a Mandela Fellow visiting from southern Sudan.

communities. Both shared their thoughts on advocacy and disability inclusion with the 25 visiting Mandela Fellows. Carrie advised the group to “wear their hearts on their sleeve and connect with the fellow helpers in their communities to more fully realize their passions.”

Although their time in America has come to an end, many of the fellows are continuing their communication with BIAAZ. In her capacity as Executive Director of the BIAAZ and through her affiliation with





The Nelson Mandela Fellows have returned to Africa, where they can now apply the knowledge they gained while in Arizona

the United States Brain Injury Alliance (USBIA), Carrie's goal is to continue to support these emerging leaders as they strive to build a global community that will support brain injury survivors.

Habiba Hussein Ali of Somalia is one of the fellows engaging in community-based problem-solving along with Carrie. In Somalia, Habiba is known as a passionate advocate for women's rights, and campaigns against harmful practices such as gender inequality, gender-based violence, girls dropping out of school, forced marriage, and female genital mutilation (FGM). Many of those whom she works with will benefit from her collaboration with the BIAAZ and USBIA, particularly women who have survived acts of violence.



BIAAZ's Executive Director with Thierry Matabishi Musole of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and AZ Humanities Executive Director, Brenda Thomas