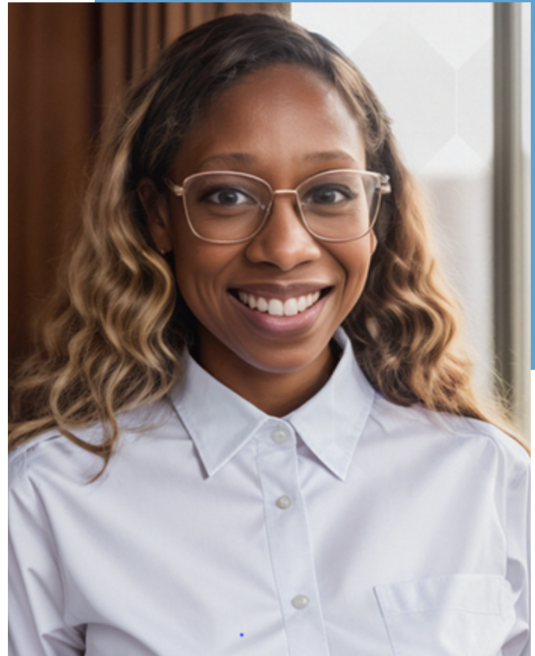

Community Letters

by Amina Brown

NUF Program Director



My journey to NUF began in a classroom. As a middle and high school history teacher with Teach for America, I discovered something profound: leadership isn't defined by your GPA or zip code—it's about having vision, compassion, and an unwavering belief in others. In those classrooms, I saw students who weren't necessarily viewed as "traditional leaders" demonstrate extraordinary empathy and drive. They showed me that true leadership often emerges from unexpected places, especially when we take the time to nurture it.

Today, as Program Director at NUF, I see this same spirit magnified in our Fellows. Our Class of 2025 is an incredible force to be reckoned with, but not in the way you might expect. They don't conform to traditional notions of leadership where one person stands alone at the front. Instead, they work in solidarity, understanding that their collective strength far exceeds their individual capabilities. When they see a problem or opportunity, they don't wait—they act, together.

As we face increasing social challenges and the potential for policies that could push more people to the margins, we must invest in leaders who can speak authentically to and for these communities. The brilliance, dedication, and collaborative spirit I see in our Fellows gives me hope for the future—but we need your help to nurture these qualities and amplify their impact.

NUF is not just supporting individual Fellows; it is helping build a new generation of leaders who will invest back in their communities. Supporting leaders who combine brilliance with empathy, vision with action, and individual excellence with collective power. Every day, I witness how our Fellows work together to create change.

The future of leadership is here, in our Fellows.



Class of 2025