

This year's Innovation Fellow, Jon Willow, will focus on leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance coalition-building within Michigan's MITTEN regions, addressing administrative inefficiencies, resource limitations, and organizational burnout to advance digital equity. Jon's expertise in digital equity is rooted in her extensive work with Michigan-based organizations.

Congratulations to the 2025 Co-Learning Plan, Innovation Fellow, and Student Led Faculty Guided awardees! We are excited to support these projects and look forward to their contributions to Michigan's economic and community development goals. To learn more about these and other projects, visit: <https://reicenter.org/projects/current-projects>



These projects and more will be presented at the **2025 Innovate Michigan! Summit** on August 14th at the Kellogg Conference Center, Lansing, Michigan. Learn more about this annual event, [here](#).

Hello from our Humphrey Fellow!



MEET ALICIA ARTEAGA: HUMPHREY FELLOW

Alicia Arteaga is a Humphrey Fellow and a Community Benefit Research Assistant at Michigan State University's Center for Community and Economic Development. With advanced degrees in Law and Globalization and over a decade of experience in civil society, she is a passionate advocate for humanitarian, social, and economic development as the cornerstone for thriving communities. Her areas of expertise include entrepreneurship, higher education, governance, and women's leadership. For the past seven years, Alicia has been a dedicated volunteer with World Vision Nicaragua, serving on its Advisory Council's Audit and Risk Committee and later on its Governance Committee. She has been appointed to serve as the next president of the Advisory Council upon her return.

Alicia's multidisciplinary background lays the foundation for a holistic vision in every initiative she undertakes. She is deeply committed to fostering critical thinking, global citizenship, and sustainable development. Ultimately, she aspires to reduce migration and strengthen local communities in Nicaragua by supporting the creation of formal businesses and cultivating a culture of entrepreneurship. In her free time, she enjoys reading, cooking, traveling, and watching films from around the world—an experience that nurtures her appreciation for diverse cultures and perspectives.