CGI University (CGI U) is a growing network of young leaders who are developing innovative solutions to some of the world’s most pressing challenges.

THE CGI U MEETING
Building on the successful Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) model, President Bill Clinton launched CGI U to engage the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators from college campuses around the world. Since its inaugural meeting in 2008, CGI U has brought together more than 7,500 students from over 925 schools and more than 145 countries.

All CGI U students are required to develop a Commitment to Action: a new, specific, and measurable plan that addresses a challenge on their campus, in their local community, or around the world. CGI U participants take action in five focus areas: Education, Environment and Climate Change, Peace and Human Rights, Poverty Alleviation, and Public Health. Since 2008, students have made more than 5,500 commitments, and nearly $2 million in funding has been awarded to these commitment-makers through CGI U.

The CGI U meeting includes Plenary Sessions, Working Sessions, and other special events that provide participants with a wide variety of knowledge-sharing and networking opportunities. The program allows CGI U participants to discuss global issues, develop practical skills, identify potential partners, and formulate concrete plans of action for the months ahead.

CGI U 2015 took place at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida from March 6-8, 2015. The meeting is free to attend for all accepted students, and students can apply online at cgiu.org.

BEYOND THE MEETING
CGI U is a growing global network of young leaders. Through year-round partnership building, commitment development, and networking opportunities, CGI U builds awareness and generates support for the work of the CGI U community around the world. Throughout the year, participants report back to CGI U about commitment progress and connect via online communities and in-person meet-ups. Some commitment-makers continue their engagement by serving as CGI U Campus Representatives or Commitment Mentors.

Colleges and universities can also engage with CGI U by joining the CGI University Network—an expanding consortium of schools that support, mentor, and provide seed funding to leading student innovators and entrepreneurs on their respective campuses.

Whether they are designing next-generation solar panels, distributing clean birth kits, creating free vision clinics, or mentoring youth through chess, CGI U participants are improving the lives of people around the globe and building a stronger future for us all.
CGI U Commitment Examples by Focus Area

CGI U is more than just an event—it is a growing community of young leaders who are forging innovative solutions to pressing global challenges through their Commitments to Action. Below are examples of several CGI U commitments that are already making a measurable difference around the world.

EDUCATION
Sara Minkara, a Lebanese-American who became blind at age 7, has provided life-skills training for more than 100 visually-impaired youth in Lebanon and has helped them overcome difficulties typically associated with blindness. At CGI U 2010, Minkara formed a partnership with fellow CGI U commitment-maker Matthew Morantz. The pair sent a specially-trained volunteer to Lebanon to teach visually-impaired children how to swim as a part of Making Waves, Morantz’s organization that provides affordable swimming instruction for children with special needs.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
Jessica Matthews committed to providing clean energy to resource-poor areas through the creation of SOCCCKET, a soccer ball that doubles as an eco-friendly, portable generator. With 30 minutes of play, the SOCCCKET captures the energy of motion to power three hours of light, run small appliances, or charge batteries. Since making her commitment, Matthews has co-founded Unchartered Play, an organization dedicated to developing and distributing several other “FUNctional” products. Her work has been featured by CNN, New York Magazine, Essence Magazine, and The Atlantic.

PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS
Subhash Ghimire founded the Sarswati Foundation to build Nepal’s first peace school for war-affected children. Turning down lucrative job offers in the United States and returning to Nepal after graduation, Ghimire led the construction of the school, which selected 217 children for its first class. The curriculum incorporates art, music, and sports into project-based learning, and Ghimire has raised more than $80,000 for the school to date.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION
Kyle McCollom founded Triple Thread Apparel to provide ex-convicts in the United States with opportunities for gainful employment. Triple Thread accomplishes this by providing job training in garment manufacturing. Since its inception, Triple Thread has impressed more than 13,000 prints on shirts distributed across the country, providing income generation to dozens of former offenders. In addition to raising $65,000 to date, McCollom has been profiled by ESPN U, Good Morning America, Fast Company, and BusinessWeek.

PUBLIC HEALTH
Ashifi Gogo sought to address the proliferation of counterfeit drugs in the developing world by using text messages to verify the authenticity of medicine. With this mobile technology, each medicine bottle would be marked with an identification tag that consumers can text to a given number to determine a drug’s authenticity. Gogo has transformed his original commitment into a broader social business, Sproxil, and has raised more than $1.8 million. Merck, GlaxoSmithKline, and Johnson & Johnson’s distributors have all signed up for Sproxil’s services, and the platform has processed over 10 million drug authentication inquiries to date.