



July 2024 - June 2025: Annual Report

Ethical Leadership: Using Power for the Good of All

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the **Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence** (Inamori Center) at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) in Cleveland, Ohio, in the United States of America, and our priorities and progress from the 2024 - 2025 operating year. In pursuit of our mission to *help people live ethical lives and create a more just world where everyone can thrive*, locally and globally, we ground our work in the following priorities and outcomes.

Our Priorities	Inamori Center Outcomes
We create space and provide support to advance scholarship and service on topics of Ethics, Values, and Justice .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teach, train, and mentor students of all ages and stages of life• Advise and fund scholarship, research, and service learning projects• Publish The International Journal of Ethical Leadership (IJEL)• Present the Inamori Ethics Prize to global ethical leaders who greatly improve the condition of humankind• Advise and mentor students to develop future ethical leaders and responsible global citizens• Consult on the ethical, legal, and social implications (ELSI) of research and development• Create and host programs and events, including lectures, panels, and activities
We cultivate and honor Excellence made possible through Ethical Leadership .	

This report details the Inamori Center's 2024-25 outcomes in the context of: **Education and Action on Ethics, Values, and Justice** (pgs 1-5); **Excellence Through Ethical Leadership** (pgs 6-9); **Key Partnerships** (pg 9); and **Our Planning and Strategic Goals** (pg 10). We appreciate your ongoing support of these efforts.

Sincerely,

Shannon French
Director, Inamori Center
Inamori Professor in Ethics

Beth Trecasa
Associate Director, Inamori Center
Advisor, Global Ethical Leaders Society

2024-2025 Inamori Center Outcomes

Education and Action on Ethics, Values, and Justice

The Inamori Center offers and sponsors teaching, training, research, and scholarship in ethics and collaborates with partners and programs, locally and globally. The Inamori Center hosts CWRU undergraduate, graduate, and professional courses in our classroom spaces. To support student learning, the Inamori Center purchases copies of all of the materials required for these courses for the [Inamori Center Library](#). Our collection of over 1,700 materials is freely available for visitors to use while within the Inamori Center.

2024-2025 Courses at the Inamori Center

- Philosophy 305/405: **Ethics**
- Philosophy/Law 317/417: **War and Morality**
- Philosophy 319/419: **Philosophy of State Violence**
- Philosophy 393/493: **Ethics of Emerging Technology/AI**
- Philosophy 336/436: **Military Conflicts, the Military Profession, and International Law**
- Philosophy 337/437: **Philosophy of Evil**
- Political Science 210: **Politics: Participation and Power**
- Political Science 341: **US Political Parties and Elections**
- English 306: **Creative NonFiction Writing Workshop**
- English 307: **Feature Writing Workshop**
- Organizational Behavior 240: **Ethics for the Real World**
- University Seminar 295: **Food and Social Justice**
- University Seminar 294: **Reading and Writing About Social Justice**

Each year, the Inamori Center hosts a series of guest speakers and panel discussions to audiences that include the CWRU campus and local community, as well as the global community. Most events are recorded for the [Resources](#) section of our website and some are also transcribed and published in our journal, *The International Journal of Ethical Leadership*.

Inamori Center Director, Prof. Shannon E. French and **Associate Director, Beth Trecasa**, also contribute to our partners' programs related to ethics, values, justice, and leadership by guest speaking in courses, programs, and at events. Some key speaking engagements with student groups this year include:

- **Hard Conversations: Affecting Change by Leveraging Your Voice:** Moderator for this panel discussion focussing on the art of engaging in challenging discussions.
- **Ethical Theories and Philosophers Across Time and the World:** [Global Ethical Leaders Society](#)'s semesterly Ethics Deep Dive meeting and a First Year CWRU Explore event.
- **What Are Your Ethics and Why?:** A conversation with the [Emerging Leaders Program](#), which provides first-year students the opportunity to develop their leadership skills, build relationships across campus, and become engaged in the campus community.

Ethics of Existing and Emerging Technologies

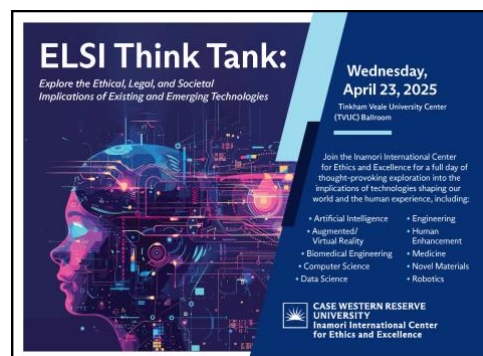
It is essential for ethics to keep pace with the speed of technological innovation. Conversations about ethical implications need to happen early, often, and at every stage throughout the design and creation of new systems and products. This enhances the process by keeping societal, legal, and other critical ethical dimensions at the forefront. It also helps generate new ideas by adding fresh, interdisciplinary perspectives and protects developers from being surprised by problems later. **Prof. Shannon E. French** leads the Inamori Center's ELSI research partnerships within CWRU and with external scientists and engineers with the support of **Dr. Émile Torres**, who has served as the Inamori Center's **Postdoctoral Scholar in the Ethics of Emerging Technologies** since 2023. Dr. Torres helps to ensure that ethical considerations are integrated into every aspect of research and development. Key ELSI projects:

- Ethical, Legal, and Societal Issues (ELSI) Lead, CONCERT/FSHARP multi-institutional project, **Development of Artificial (Biosynthetic) Blood**, DARPA grant
- ELSI Lead, **Embodied Robotics for Remote Operations** multi-institutional project, Office of Naval Research (ONR) grant for Naval Human Fusions, CWRU Human Fusions Lab
- ELSI team member, PIT-UN (**Public Interest Technology**) grant
- Member of the MERLIN network (**Military Ethics Research Lab and Innovation Network**), an interdisciplinary team of researchers from across UNSW and around the globe
- Co-teaching collaboration with the Case School of Engineering and the senior capstone course: **Engineering Science 399: Impact of Engineering on Society**
- **Is the Hype Just Hyperbole? Understanding the Promise and Perils of Quantum Computing:** special report on ethical issues in quantum computing
- Member of COPE (Committee for Professional Ethics) for the ACM (American Computing Machinery)

ELSI Think Tank

The Inamori Center hosted its first annual ELSI Think Tank this Spring. This event created space for attendees to explore the ethical, legal, and societal implications of existing and emerging technologies, such as: robotics, computer science, data science, engineering, biomedical engineering, medicine, human enhancement, augmented/ virtual reality, novel materials, and artificial intelligence. The ELSI Think Tank included a **Symposium Space** to listen and learn from expert ELSI Advisors who had conversations with technology developers and took questions from the audience. An **Exhibit Space** was also included to provide the opportunity to observe and interact with existing and emerging physical, digital, and theoretical technologies and also talk with technology developers, technology utilizers, ELSI Advisors, and emerging student ELSI Advisors. Exhibits at the ELSI Think Tank included:

- **AI Playground** presented by [U]tech
- **Human Fusions Institute**
- **Interactive Commons**
- **Trustworthy AI**
- **xLab AI**



As part of the **Exhibit Space**, more than 80 CWRU undergraduate and graduate students shared their own research and scholarship at the ELSI Think Tank through poster presentations. Student presenters were part of the following courses:

- Engineering Humanities 250: **Responsible AI: Cultivating a Just and Sustainable Socio-technical Future through Data Citizenship**
- Engineering Science 399: **Impact of Engineering on Society**
- Philosophy 393/493: **Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technology**

We were also pleased to host a faculty research poster from the Weatherhead School of Management: ***Feasibility and Acceptability of a Robotic Assistant for Early-Stage ADRD Care.***



Inamori International Writing Prize

The aim of this prize is to promote the study and application of ethics at the graduate student level. This year's call for papers focused on the ethical, legal, and societal implications in the research and development of technology. **Izabella Sabharwal de Besseney**, from The Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence at the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, was recognized for her scholarship, ***A Care-Centred Approach to AI in Education to Cultivate Academic Confidence and Motivation***, with the 2025 Inamori International Writing Prize. In an effort to foster global discussion of pressing issues on these topics and accessibility in languages other than English, the Inamori Center publishes the winning papers, in print and online, in multiple languages, as special volumes of *The International Journal of Ethical Leadership*.

Graduate Studies in Military Ethics

The CWRU **Military Ethics master's degree program** focuses on the core values and moral principles that collectively govern those serving in the military forces of nations around the world and decisions on the use of force stemming from the just war tradition. The program's students are a mix of serving members of the military, veterans, law students, and traditional civilian master's level graduate students. In Fall 2024, we welcomed another cohort of master's students, including another two U.S. Army Chaplains. The **U.S. Army's Advanced Civilian Schooling** program allows for Army officers to participate in intensive study and prepare for positions that require advanced degrees. Following graduation this Summer, the chaplains are now teaching ethics and leadership to enlisted members at Fort Bragg in North Carolina and Fort Novosel in Alabama.

This year, military ethics program students traveled to the **U.S. Naval Academy** and **U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC)** for leadership and ethics conferences. These events provide an opportunity for students, academics, practitioners, and military officers (from the United States and allied nations) to come together and discuss ethics relating to the profession of arms, the practice of state controlled violence, and national security.

In Spring 2025, in partnership with the College of Arts and Sciences, we welcomed back **Dr. Jonathan A. French Flint** as an Inamori Emerging Scholar to teach Philosophy 336/436: Military Ethics, the Military Profession, and International Law. Dr. French Flint also serves as an Inamori Center Research Associate. He recently contributed to a conversation with *The New York Post*: [Russia escalates nuclear threat amid Ukraine war, are we a step closer to annihilation?](#) He earned his doctoral degree from the University of Hull in the United Kingdom with a focus on ***Strategic Restraint: Modeling the Role of Moral Weight in Modern Conflicts***.

This May, **Inamori Center Director and Prof. Shannon E. French** debated at [the Oxford Union](#) —the oldest debating organization in the world, located at Oxford University in the United Kingdom. She was honored to be invited to this historic event and was paired with **Dr. Sean McFate** to debate on the topic of whether or not to hold arms manufacturers accountable for war crimes.



Prof. French is also an active advisor for the Institute for Defense Analysis, the RAND Corporation, and the US Department of Defense on classified new technology in the military. The 3rd edition of her book, *The Code of the Warrior: Exploring Warrior Values Past and Present*, includes two new chapters and will be released on August 28, 2025.

Each year, Prof. French presents on ethics, leadership, military ethics, and ethics of emerging technologies across our campus and to audiences worldwide. The following is a selection of key presentations, conversations, publications, and from July 2024 - June 2025:

- “**Harvard Business Club AI PI Panel**” panelist, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio
- “**Military Political Neutrality**” episode of “Hi-Phi: Philosophy Nation,” podcast interview

- **“Addressing Moral Imperatives in Public Health, Locally and Globally”** moderator, 2024 Inamori Ethics Prize Academic Symposium with Amy Acton, LeVar Burton, and Suzanne A. Rivera, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio
- **“Coding the Warrior: Refreshing Warfighter Values to Face the Future”** keynote address, Annual Australian Defense Force hosted International Military Testing Association (IMTA) Conference, Canberra, Australia (via Zoom)
- **“Ethical AI in Healthcare”** presentation, School of Medicine students, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio
- **“Ethical Challenges in Our High-Tech Era”** presentation, InTown Club, Union Club, Cleveland, Ohio
- **“Why Tech Needs the Humanities,”** Breaking Boundaries panel discussion with Rishi Jaitly and Tim Beal, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio
- **“ELSI (Ethical, Legal, and Societal Issues) Primer for Tech”** presentation, ELSI Think Tank event, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio
- **“Oxford Union Debate: Should Arms Manufacturers Be Held Accountable for War Crimes?”** formal debate, Oxford Union, Oxford University, Oxford, UK
- **“Military Ethics and the Changing Trans-Atlantic Relationship”** Farewell Panel, plenary, annual Euro-ISME conference, Madrid, Spain

We are also grateful to and reliant upon Inamori Center [Research Associates](#) that extend our reach. These volunteer affiliations are for select local and global academics and professional practitioners who pursue ethics research, scholarship, and service relevant to our mission. This year, we were proud to welcome **Prof. Lynette Hammond Gerido** and **Prof. Ben Mauk** as Research Associates. Some examples of conversations and publications from our new and continuing research associates include:

- **Lynette Hammond Gerido**, Assistant Professor, Department of Bioethics, CWRU: partners with communities in research to inform clinical practice, technological design, and policy
 - [An Ethical Approach to Genomic Privacy Preserving Technology Development](#)
 - [Equity and Inclusion in Assessing Hereditary Cancer Risk: Insights From Excluded Communities, Structured Interviews, and Population Genetics](#)
- **Ben Mauk**, Associate Professor, English, CWRU: focus on border politics, migration, statelessness
 - [The Long Road from Xinjiang, The New York Times Magazine](#)
 - [Inside Xinjiang's Prison State, The New Yorker](#)
- **Pauline Shanks Kaurin**, military ethicist and ethics educator
 - [A Military-Ethics Professor Resigns in Protest](#) - “Over the course of several months, Pauline Shanks Kaurin concluded that she no longer had the academic freedom necessary for doing her job” - Tom Nichols for *The Atlantic*.
- **Maysan Haydar**, Assistant Professor, History, CWRU
 - **Masculinity and its Discontents: The Effect of Masculine Identities on Service Culture in Elite Units** - A campus panel with visiting “soldier scholars” on the use (and misuse) of masculinity and gender in creating hierarchies and rankings in the armed forces.

2024-2025 Inamori Center Outcomes

Excellence Through Ethical Leadership

Inamori Ethics Prize Events

The Inamori Ethics Prize honors outstanding international ethical leaders whose actions and influence have greatly improved the condition of humankind. All events are open to the public free of charge. The Prize recipient also meets with groups of students and community members throughout the visit. The ceremony and symposium are made available online and transcribed for *The International Journal of Ethical Leadership*.

In September 2024, it was our sincere honor to recognize **Dr. Anthony Fauci**, a physician, immunologist, and infectious disease expert, for his lasting, life-saving contributions by awarding him the Inamori Ethics Prize. We are thankful to former Ohio Department of Health Director, **Dr. Amy Acton**; actor, advocate, and 2019 Inamori Ethics Prize recipient, **LeVar Burton**; and Macalester College President, **Dr. Suzanne Rivera** for gathering in conversation to discuss “**Addressing Moral Imperatives in Public Health, Locally and Globally**” for the 2024 Inamori Ethics Prize Academic Symposium. **Inamori Center Director, Prof. Shannon E. French**, and **Associate Director, Beth Trecasa**, were able to present Dr. Fauci with his 2024 Inamori Ethics Prize medal in 2025 (after he was unable to attend our on campus ceremony while recovering from the West Nile virus). Dr. Fauci’s plaque wearing the Inamori Ethics Prize medal is now proudly displayed with all the other Prize recipients on campus at the Inamori Center.



The Inamori Ethics Prize ceremony and symposium for our next honoree, [Oscar Chacón](#), will be held on campus of Case Western Reserve University on September 26, 2025. With immigration policies and protections being challenged here in the United States and internationally, it is especially meaningful and important to highlight and celebrate his tireless advocacy for human rights and dignity for migrant populations with the 2025 Inamori Ethics Prize. We look forward to welcoming him to campus and welcoming guests, in-person and online.

Developing Ethical Leaders

As part of our aim to cultivate the next generation of ethical leaders and overall responsible global citizens, the Inamori Center advises and sponsors the CWRU student organization, [Global Ethical Leaders Society \(GELS\)](#). Membership is open to undergraduates, graduate students, and professional students. GELS members learn how to enhance their leadership skills, analyze complex ethical issues,

inspire others to support ethical policies, and play an active role in promoting ethical progress on a global scale. Each year, GELS members elect an Executive Board that is responsible for organizational programs, communications, membership, and finances. Some of the topics GELS members explored this year include ***Lawfulness vs. Ethics and The Ethics of: Lying; Prostitution; Savior Siblings and Organ Donation; Landlords; Pain Management in Pediatric Medicine; Scientific Journals; Animal Rights; Serial Killers, Luigi, and Medical Insurance; Education Inequality and Feasible Ways to Combat It; and Gene Editing.***

This Spring, GELS welcomed a panel of local community experts to be in conversations with students on campus. The **Organizational Responsibility: Climate and Action Justice** panel explored how local nonprofits, government, and enterprise work together for climate justice and sustainability. GELS moderated the conversation with **Ms. Brooke Kahl, ESG Consultant with Blue CSR Strategies** and **Mr. David Hester from the RidAll Green Partnership**, a Cleveland based nonprofit for land restoration, urban agriculture and community health. Discussion questions included: How does the Climate Action Plan by the City of Cleveland impact ongoing and future initiatives at local nonprofits? How do corporations measure success of sustainability goals? When scaling nonprofit projects into profitable enterprise, how do you keep nonprofit values?



Students also learned about leadership in a variety of settings off campus. In January 2025, four CWRU undergraduate and graduate students attended the annual **U.S. Naval Academy's Leadership Conference**. They were able to meet and collaborate with students, faculty, and staff from military and civilian institutions of higher education across the United States and across the globe.



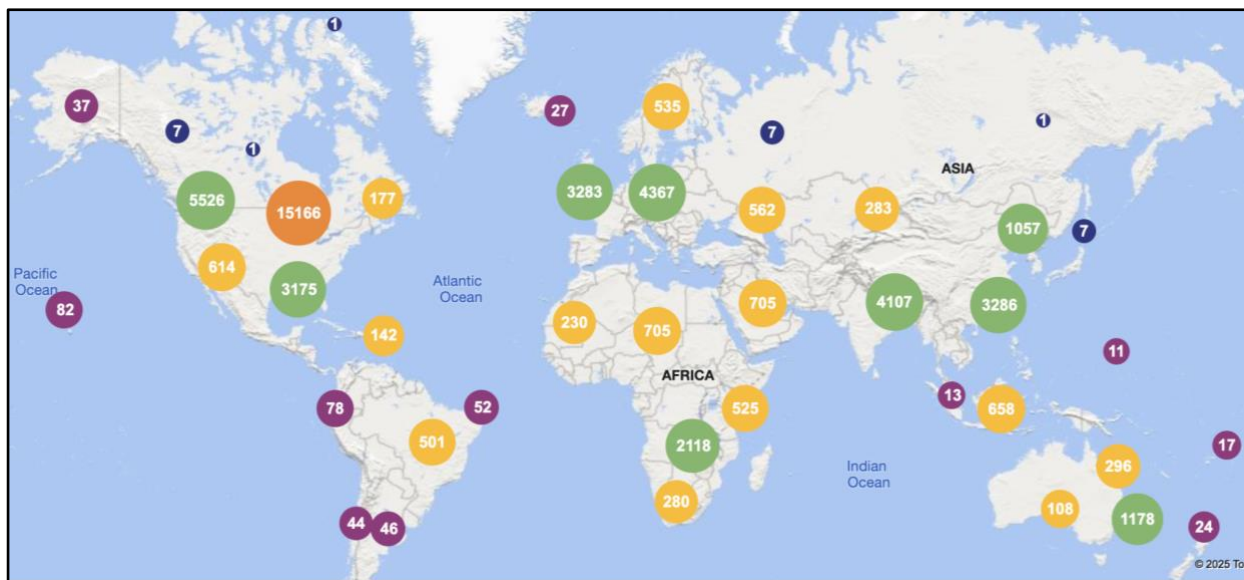
The Inamori Center funds students to participate in experiential learning projects, conference attendance, research, service, and other activities, locally and globally. This Summer, Ayla Grabenbauer

is focused on research ethics and animal welfare as a research assistant in Dr. Allison Hess-Dunning's lab in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the Case School of Engineering. They are working on the development of tissue phantoms to model scar formation around neural implants. Ayla aims to supplement and/or replace animal models in tissue response studies for intracortical microelectrodes. Kian Burt is investigating the association between caregiver dental anxiety and the child's tooth decay or cavities status in Northeast Ohio. In collaboration with the CWRU School of Dental Medicine and the Community Dentistry Department, Kian aims to reduce disparities in oral health care for minorities and the underserved through research, education, and service.

For the second summer in a row, the Inamori Center is proud to partner with the [CWRU student chapter of Remote Area Medical \(RAM\)](#) and be a sponsor for their service trip to Sharon, Pennsylvania. Students serve as early morning to late evening support in opening, running, and closing the Remote Area Medical's clinics over a three-day weekend. **Stan Brock**, 2010 Inamori Ethics Prize recipient, established RAM in 1985 to deliver free health care services to communities in the United States and isolated regions around the world, including, vision, dental, and medical care.

[The International Journal of Ethical Leadership](#)

The Inamori Center has published *The International Journal of Ethical Leadership (IJEL)* in partnership with the University of Akron Press since 2012. This interdisciplinary journal creates a trusted forum for an international exchange of ideas on the theory and practice of ethical leadership for readers around the world to explore historical, current, and emerging issues in global ethics and leadership. *IJEL* is a print publication and is also published online in the CWRU School of Law's [Scholarly Commons](#). Since 2020, *IJEL* articles and transcripts have been downloaded nearly 51,000 times in 198 countries/regions by individuals representing over 3000 different organizations. This compares to nearly 38,000 downloads, 186 countries/regions, and over 2400 organizations at this same time last year.



The 12th volume of *IJEL* will be available in Summer 2025. This volume includes the following articles and transcripts:

- Amy Acton, LeVar Burton, and Suzanne M. Rivera with Shannon E. French, Inamori Prize Symposium, **“Addressing Moral Imperatives in Public Health, Locally and Globally”**
- Amy Acton, LeVar Burton, and Shannon E. French, Sound of Ideas, September 19, 2024 broadcast: **“Dr. Amy Acton and LeVar Burton Discuss Ethics in Public Health”**
- George Shadrack Kamanda, **“Dear Young People: Embrace Purposeful Politics, Responsible Citizenship, and Ethical Leadership for a Better Sierra Leone”**
- Joel H. Rosenthal, **“Ethical Leadership in International Affairs”**
- *Talking Foreign Policy*, May 28, 2024 broadcast: **“75th Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions”**

The 3rd special volume of *IJEL* will be available in Fall 2025. This volume includes the Inamori International Writing Prize graduate student publications in English, Spanish, and French.

- Anthony Lupo, **“Proportionate to What?”**
- Brett Newman, **“Christianity and Espionage: The Ethical Application of Lying and Deception for National Security”**
- Izabella Sabharwal De Besseney, **“A Care-Centred Approach to AI in Education to Cultivate Academic Confidence and Motivation”**

2024-2025 Inamori Center Outcomes

Key Partnerships

The Inamori Center relies on a network of partners to achieve its mission. In 2024-2025, we especially relied upon our campus partnerships at Case Western Reserve and local and global partnerships with:

Case Western Reserve University

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| • Academic Integrity Board | • Military Ethics Master’s Degree Program |
| • Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities | • Office of Multicultural Affairs |
| • Center for Civic Engagement and Learning | • Office of the Provost |
| • College of Arts and Sciences | • School of Engineering |
| • Flora Stone Mather Center for Women | • School of Graduate Studies |
| • Human Fusion Institute | • School of Law Scholarly Commons |
| • Institute for Smart, Secure, and Connected Systems | • School of Medicine |
| • Kelvin Smith Library | • Social Justice Institute |
| • LGBT Center | • Tinkham Veale University Center |
| | • Weatherhead School of Business |

Domestic and International

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| • Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE) | • Centre for Military Ethics at King's College London |
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- [Cleveland State University](#)
- [Command and General Staff Foundation](#)
- [Euro\(ISME\)](#)
- [Inamori Foundation](#)
- [United States Army Chaplain Corps](#)
- [United States Army's Advanced Civilian Schooling](#)
- [United States Army Command and General Staff College](#)
- [United States Army War College](#)
- [United States Naval Academy](#)
- [University of Akron Press](#)

2024-2025 Inamori Center Outcomes

Our Planning and Strategic Goals

In addition to our annual operations, the Inamori Center maintains an active strategic plan. As part of the Inamori Center's planning process, we identified and actively work toward the achievement of the following **five-year strategic goals** for the period of 2022 to 2027:

OUR STORY: We will make our mission, capacity, and investment potential clear.

- Meet with current and potential partners to talk about [Our Story, Our Structure, Our Space](#).
- Create a comprehensive Inamori Center identity and materials that can help us engage more people, especially internationally, and develop additional support and funding.

OUR STRUCTURE: We will develop more sustainability through human infrastructure.

Develop pilot funding and endowed support for ethics at CWRU and create a Presidential/Provost-level fundraising campaign for:

- additional Inamori Center human infrastructure through staffing;
- at least two new CWRU Professorships in Ethics; and
- the student organization, Global Ethical Leaders Society.

OUR SPACE: We will better utilize the power of our physical proximity and resources at CWRU.

- Increase Inamori Center space utilization by hosting additional courses and programs on-site;
- Make Inamori Center library and resources more accessible to students and partners; and
- Creatively communicate with in-person and online Inamori Center guests

Over the last year, the Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence at Case Western Reserve University has provided excellent programs and participated in initiatives that we believe help people live ethical lives and create a more just world where everyone can thrive. We believe that it is only through our partnerships on campus, in the community, and around the world that we can meet our mission. We hope this report demonstrates our collective accomplishments, as well as our continued progress toward these goals, as we strive to fulfill our strategic plan by 2027.