



The Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence

July 2025 - June 2026 Annual Report

The Highest Deed: Helping Others and Society



CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY
Inamori International Center
for Ethics and Excellence

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Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the **Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence** at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, in the United States of America, and our priorities and progress from the 2025-2026 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, the Inamori Center advances scholarship and service on ethics, values, and justice, and promotes ethical leadership.

Inamori Center Priorities	
We cultivate and honor Excellence made possible through Ethical Leadership .	We create space and provide support to advance scholarship and service on topics of Ethics, Values, and Justice .
Inamori Center Outcomes	
• Teach, train, and mentor students of all ages and stages of life. • Advise and fund scholarship, research, and service-learning projects. • Publish <i>The International Journal of Ethical Leadership</i> (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.	

This report details the Inamori Center’s 2025-2026 outcomes in the context of: **Our Structure** (pg. 1); **Excellence Through Ethical Leadership** (pgs. 2-4); **Education and Action on Ethics, Values, and Justice** (pgs. 5-8); and **Key Partnerships** (pg. 10). We appreciate your ongoing support of these efforts. 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 outcomes.

Sincerely,



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

2025-2026 Inamori Center Outcomes

Our Structure

The Inamori Center was established in 2006 with a gift from Dr. Kazuo Inamori (1932-2022), founder of Kyocera Corporation, and the Inamori Foundation. Professor Shannon French, Ph.D., served as the Inamori Center Director and Inamori Professor in Ethics from 2008 through 2025. Following this distinguished service, French is now able to expand her teaching and research as a professor in the Department of Philosophy and the School of Law, focused on scholarship in military ethics and ethics of existing and emerging technologies.

During French's tenure, the Inamori Center launched several interdisciplinary initiatives such as [*The International Journal of Ethical Leadership*](#) (IJEL) and the student organization [*Global Ethical Leaders Society*](#) (GELS), and hosted international conferences and events. French developed Case Western Reserve University's (CWRU's) unique master's degree program in military ethics, which she continues to direct. Today, faculty from across the university lead the field in thoughtful scholarship on topics such as preventing war crimes, the effects of dehumanization in conflicts, and the role of the warrior's code in modern warfare.



Prof. Shannon E. French and Dr. Denis Mukwege, 2014 Inamori Ethics Prize and 2018 Nobel Peace Prize recipient

Since the establishment of the Inamori Ethics Prize in 2008, French has recognized all 16 recipients with the award, honoring their global ethical leadership and contributions to humanity. With French's local and global partnerships (including governmental), the Inamori Center has also been able to expand its impact in the ethics of existing and emerging technologies, addressing critical ethical, legal, and societal issues through teaching and grant-funded research.

In 2026, [*Beth Trecasa*](#) was appointed first as acting director, and most recently as interim director of the Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence at Case Western Reserve University. A longtime leader on campus and within the Inamori Center, Trecasa brings extensive knowledge of the Center's mission, programs, and partnerships. She succeeds Prof. Eileen Anderson, Ed.D., who serves as the Anne Templeton Zimmerman M.D. Professor in Bioethics and director of education for the university's educational programs in bioethics and medical humanities. Anderson supported the Inamori Center's leadership transition in the spring 2026 semester. The university will launch a national search for a permanent Inamori Center director this fall.

2025-2026 Inamori Center Outcomes

Excellence Through Ethical Leadership

Honoring Oscar Chacón

As part of our mission to foster ethical leadership around the world, we present the Inamori Ethics Prize to an individual who has demonstrated exemplary ethical leadership and who has greatly improved the condition of humankind. Given historic and current challenges to immigration policies and protections both in the United States and internationally, it is especially significant to have recognized and honored **Oscar Chacón**, a dedicated advocate for human rights and dignity for migrant populations and a co-founder of [Alianza Americas](#), with the 2025 Inamori Ethics Prize. Alianza Americas is a network of organizations that advocates for solutions addressing systemic inequities, immigrant justice, and climate justice in the United States and Latin America.

Oscar Chacón gave a lecture, ***The Ethical Value of Truth Telling in an Era of Deception and Divisions***, at the prize ceremony. He was also in conversation with our distinguished panelists Veronica Isabel Dahlberg and Margaret Wong and discussed ***Immigration Ethics: Obligations and Opportunities***.

Veronica Isabel Dahlberg is the Executive Director of [HOLA Ohio](#), the organization she founded in 1999 to advocate for and empower Ohio's farmworkers, immigrants, and Latino families and children. For over 25 years, HOLA has been recognized for its groundbreaking advocacy on behalf of these communities. **Margaret Wong** founded [Margaret W. Wong & Associates, LLC](#) after years of adversity. She is an immigrant, a self-starter, and a proud businesswoman.



Margaret Wong, Oscar Chacón, Prof. Shannon E. French, and Veronica Isabel Dahlberg.

Honoring Frank Mugisha

The Inamori Ethics Prize ceremony and symposium for our next honoree, **Frank Mugisha**, will be held on the campus of Case Western Reserve University on September 18, 2026. Mugisha, executive director of Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG), has devoted his life to advocating for basic human rights for all people—not only in his home country, but globally.

Mugisha was 14 when he told his brother he was gay. Both brothers were born and raised in a strict Catholic family in suburban Kampala, the capital of Uganda, where anti-LGBTQIA+ laws are among the harshest in the world. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say coming out in the East African country could draw a beating, land you in prison, or even cost your life.



From an early age, Mugisha has led the grassroots movement to save thousands of LGBTQIA+ Ugandans from persecution, incarceration, and death. During his undergraduate studies, Mugisha founded Icebreakers Uganda in 2004, an organization created as a support network for those who are out or in the process of coming out to family and friends.

Icebreakers Uganda offers counseling, suicide prevention, and education services to those who are sexual minorities and open about their identity—because it is viewed by law and some public opinion in that country as criminal. Mugisha has expanded his efforts while at SMUG, now an umbrella organization of over 40 groups, including the first and only

LGBTQIA+ health center in Uganda.

In addition to promoting equality, Mugisha and his team at SMUG have been fighting legal and ideological battles with the Ugandan Parliament and championing legal efforts in the United States District Court against anti-LGBTQIA+ activists for years.

Mugisha has led the movements to abolish Uganda's anti-homosexuality and sexual-offense legislation, which makes it a crime to identify as queer, considers all same-sex conduct to be nonconsensual, and allows for the death penalty in certain cases.

Ugandan courts upheld the large majority of the Anti-Homosexuality Act in 2024. However, SMUG's advocacy efforts did convince legislators to eliminate sections that restricted healthcare access for LGBTQIA+ people, criminalized renting premises, and required alleged acts of homosexuality to be reported. Mugisha and advocates continue to seek a full annulment of the Act before the Supreme Court of Uganda.

Developing Ethical Leaders

As part of the Inamori Center's 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: Violence in Video Games; Art History/Museums; Ethics of Dictatorship; Social Media Algorithms; Vices; Charity; and Academic Dishonesty.



This semester, Case Western students in Global Ethical Leaders Society hosted **Dr. Aura Sunada Newlin**, Executive Director of the **Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation** and CWRU alumna (*GRS '25*). The Foundation is located between Cody and Powell, Wyoming, on the former site of the World War II Japanese American concentration camp

that was called the “Heart Mountain Relocation Center.” Through educational programs, curricular initiatives, and museum offerings, the Foundation works to preserve what remains of the site and to tell the stories of the more than 14,000 people unjustly incarcerated. GELS students summarized the event's discussion points:

- The negative effects of Japanese Americans being seen as “model minorities” after being freed from incarceration.
- The role of all Americans in stopping the persecution of minority groups.
- Draft resisters and their stories.
- The hypocrisy in the government's rationale for internment camps and lesser-known stories of Japanese Americans liberating people during the Holocaust, while their own families were incarcerated at home.
- How oppression breaks community and culture and intergenerational trauma.
- The reintroduction of the Alien Enemies Act in modern times and current immigration policies.
- The importance of due process for all people, citizens and noncitizens alike.

2025-2026 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 is freely available to visitors while at the Inamori Center.

2025-2026 Courses at the Inamori Center

- Philosophy 305/405: **Ethics in Theory and Practice**
- Philosophy 317/417: **War and Morality**
- Philosophy 319/419: **Philosophy of State Violence: War, Colonization, Punishment, and Immigration**
- Philosophy 336/436: **Military Ethics, the Military Profession, and International Law**
- Philosophy 340: **Methods and Problems of Science Communication**
- Political Science 322: **Political Movements and Political Participation**
- Political Science: **Revenge vs. Reconciliation**
- Political Science 290: **Political System and Career Paths**
- English 306: **Introduction to Creative Non-fiction**
- English 307: **Feature/ Magazine Writing**
- Bioethics 602: **Special Topics in Bioethics**
- Biology 233: **The Life and Science of Ernest Everett Just**

The Inamori Center contributes 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:

- **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.

Advancing Service

This April, the [CWRU student chapter of Remote Area Medical \(RAM\)](#) hosted their first pop-up clinic at John Hay High School, helping bridge health disparities in Cleveland by offering free dental and vision care. ([Read more about CWRU RAM's clinic in The Observer.](#))

For the third year in a row, the Inamori Center is proud to partner with the [CWRU RAM](#) and be a sponsor for its summer service trip. In summer 2026, students expanded from one to three clinics and served in Big Rapids, Michigan; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Paris, Illinois. Students serve as early-morning to late-evening support in opening, running, and closing Remote Area Medical's clinics over a three-day weekend. **Stan Brock**, the 2010 Inamori Ethics Prize recipient, established RAM in 1985 to deliver free healthcare services to communities in the United States and isolated regions around the world, including vision, dental, and medical care.

Advancing Scholarship

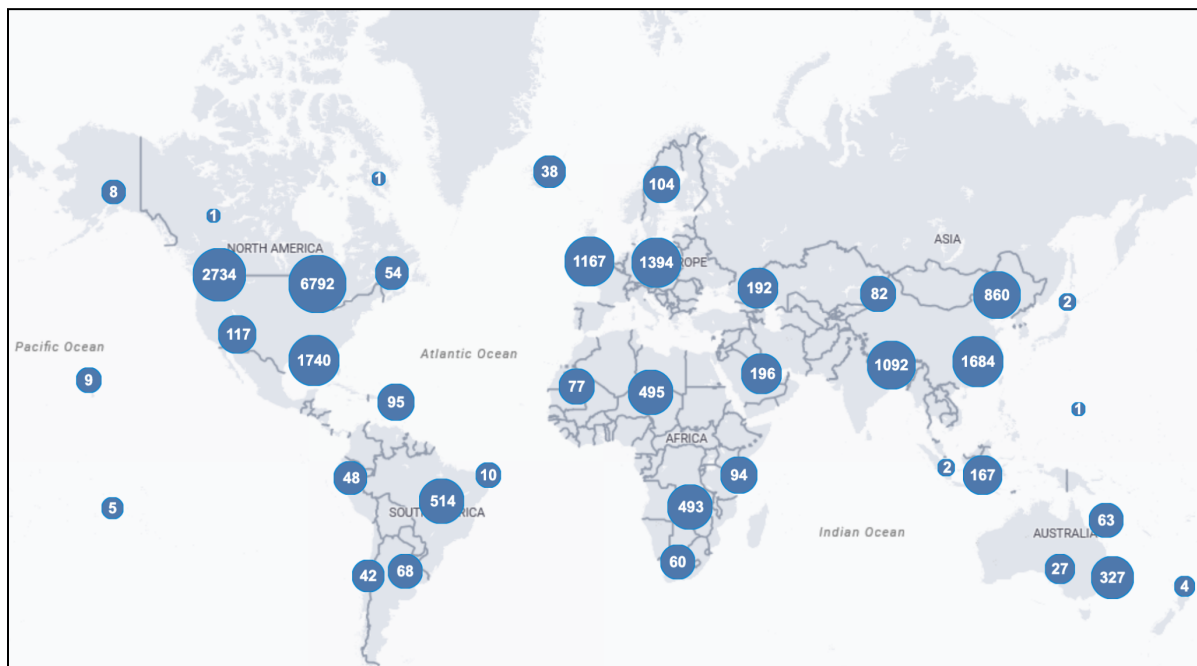
The Inamori Center funds students to participate in experiential learning projects, conference attendance, research, service, and other activities, locally and globally. This summer, Pranav Tholeti is exploring how healthcare systems interact with broader social forces. He is participating in a research project with members of the Bioethics Center for Health and Genomics (CHANGE), which is a CWRU bioethics research group focused on the ethics and governance of rapidly evolving genomic technologies. He hopes to explore the ethical considerations surrounding gene editing and examine what it takes to build governance frameworks that meaningfully incorporate community voices. He also aims to expand conversations around disability ethics and advocacy.

The Inamori Center launched a new program to support student research and welcomes proposals from all CWRU undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. Presentation Awards help support students presenting ethics-related research at a conference. During the Spring 2026 semester, 12 students received awards and presented at conferences and meetings, including:

- [Albany Medical College: Words as Actions in Medicine - Albany, New York](#)
- [Association for Prevention Teaching and Research - Savannah, Georgia](#)
- [Gods and Monsters: Communities and Their Monsters - San Marcos, Texas](#)
- [Health Humanities Consortium Conference - Indianapolis, Indiana](#)
- [Midwest Medical Humanities Student Conference - Indianapolis, Indiana](#)
- [National Conference on Undergraduate Research \(NCUR\) - Richmond, Virginia](#)
- [Tufts Art History Graduate Student Symposium - Tufts, New York](#)

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. Between June 1, 2025, and July 30, 2026, *IJEL* articles and transcripts were downloaded almost 21,000 times in 180 countries by over 1,000 different organizations. This activity compares to 11,319 downloads in 160 countries by nearly 900 organizations between July 2024 and June 2025.



The 12th volume of *The International Journal of Ethical Leadership* was published 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”](#)

Inamori International Writing Prize

A third special volume of *The International Journal of Ethical Leadership* was published this year, including ***Inamori International Writing Prize*** winners in English, Spanish, and French. Readers can reflect on whether Christian ethics can be reconciled with a career in professional espionage, explore a rich Aquinian analysis of the just war principle of proportionality, and learn how insights from care ethics can inform the responsible use of artificial intelligence in education.

2025 Inamori International Writing Prize: **Izabella Sabharwal De Besseney, 1st place**

- [A Care-Centred Approach to AI in Education to Cultivate Academic Confidence and Motivation](#)
- [Una aproximación a la IA en la educación centrada en el cuidado para fomentar la confianza y la motivación académica](#)
- [D'une approche de l'IA éducative axée sur la bienveillance pour encourager la confiance personnelle et la motivation dans les études](#)

2024 Inamori International Writing Prize: **Anthony Lupo, 1st place**

- [Proportionate to What?](#)
- [¿Proporcional a qué?](#)
- [Toute\(s\) proportion\(s\) gardée\(s\)?](#)

2024 Inamori International Writing Prize: **Brett Newman, 2nd place**

- [Christianity and Espionage: The Ethical Application of Lying and Deception for National Security](#)
- [Cristianismo y espionaje: La aplicación ética de la mentira y el engaño para la seguridad nacional](#)
- [Christianisme et espionnage: De l'emploi éthique du mensonge et de la dissimulation dans la sécurité nationale](#)

We're also proud to publish three abstracts from several undergraduate students who presented their research posters at the ***2025 ELSI Think Tank at Case Western Reserve University***. Readers can explore undergraduate research topics that examine the ethical, legal, and societal impacts of emerging technologies. These abstracts also highlight how new technologies can improve our understanding of health conditions and advance human care. All of these topics highlight the value of the field of ethics for addressing real-world challenges.

- **Christopher Batarseh, Andrea Wang, and William Zhu:** [Cleveland Checkers](#)
- **Krithin Godala, Ayati Lala, and Ian Zagorac:** [AI-Driven Analysis of Stroke Mortality Socio-Demographic Patterns in Ohio](#)
- **Raaghuv Vazirani:** [Ctrl + Alt + ELSI: An AI Usage Starter Kit](#)

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 led the Inamori Center's ELSI research partnerships within CWRU and with external scientists and engineers with the support of **Dr. Émile Torres**, who served as the Inamori Center's **Postdoctoral Scholar in the Ethics of Emerging Technologies** from 2023 through 2025. During this time, they collaborated on ELSI projects, including:

- 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.
- Co-teaching collaboration with the Case School of Engineering and the senior capstone course: ***Engineering Science 399: Impact of Engineering on Society***.

Prof. French is also an active advisor for the Institute for Defense Analyses, the RAND Corporation, and the U.S. Department of Defense on classified new technology in the military. She presents on ethics, leadership, military ethics, and the ethics of emerging technologies across our campus and to audiences worldwide. The following is a selection of key presentations, conversations, and publications from July-December 2025:

- **"AI + Ethics: Exploring Critical Agency"** panelist, Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland, Ohio.
- **"Immigration Ethics: Obligations and Opportunities"** moderator, 2025 Inamori Ethics Prize Academic Symposium panel featuring prize winner Oscar Chacón, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.
- **"Tech execs join the Army. Critics say it's an ethical minefield," Shannon E. French**, Inamori Center Director and Inamori Professor in Ethics, spoke with *USA Today* about four executives from tech companies, including Palantir, Meta, and OpenAI, that the U.S. Army commissioned as reserve officers at the rank of lieutenant colonel.
- The third edition of her book, ***The Code of the Warrior: Exploring Warrior Values Past and Present***, includes two new chapters and was released in August 2025.

2025-2026 Inamori Center Outcomes

Key Partnerships

The Inamori Center relies on a network of partners to achieve its mission. In 2025-2026, we especially relied upon our [campus partnerships](#) at Case Western Reserve, as well as [local and global partners](#). The Inamori Center is also proud to invest in the initiatives of our partners. This year, we highlight the following partnerships and programs:

- **HOLA, Ohio:** [HOLA's "My First Desk"](#) program serves as a bridge between the classroom and the home. The desks provide a designated workspace for students to do their homework, art, reading, and creative projects while keeping their supplies organized.
- **Office of Multicultural Affairs:** [The Annual Unity Banquet & Scholarship Dinner](#) celebrates the academic accomplishments and pursuits of CWRU students and graduating seniors.

Legendary Partners

This year, the Inamori Center mourned the loss and honored the legacy of our beloved Advisory Board member and friend, Distinguished University Professor **Faye Gary**. We are grateful to have had her guidance since our start and for all of her contributions to the Inamori Center, the Provost Scholars Program, Case Western Reserve University, the nursing community, and beyond.



We also remembered our beloved campus colleague and friend, Professor **Jim McGuffin-Cawley**. In 2005, Beth Trecasa and McGuffin-Cawley taught *The Life of the Mind* course together at CWRU. He also contributed to the Inamori Center's first volume of *The International Journal of Ethical Leadership* in 2012: [Connecting Ethics to Engineering through Conflict Minerals](#). We miss Jim and his ethical leadership.

