

Long Bio

Dr. Ryan Shelby is a Career Diplomat & Congressional Liaison Officer serving within USAID's Bureau of Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA) since 2023.

Prior to his current position, Dr. Shelby served in the US Diplomatic Mission to South Africa (2019-2023) and led a team that focused on countering malign development practices and addressing corruption-enabling vulnerabilities in strategic infrastructure growth sectors: artificial intelligence, digital, critical minerals, water, energy, & extreme weather resilient infrastructure.

From 2017-2019, Dr. Shelby served in US Diplomatic Mission to Haiti and managed a team that concentrated on (1) resilient infrastructure, (2) housing rehabilitation, (3) clean energy, and (4) Disaster Risk Reduction policies.

From 2013-2017, Dr. Shelby was a Senior Energy Engineering Advisor within USAID's Office of Energy & Infrastructure where he supported & led the Powering Agriculture: Grand Challenge for Development.

In 2019, Dr. Shelby was selected to receive the [2019 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal for National Security and International Affairs](#), given to the U.S. Government officials who have fostered innovation and have provided the greatest benefit to the American people.

In 2021, Dr. Shelby received the [C. Herbert Rees Rising Star Award](#), given to one mid-career employee whose performance demonstrates potential for continued growth & responsibility in USAID.

Dr. Shelby has also received other awards during his time at USAID such as the [2014 Meritorious Honor Award](#) for his efforts to support the success of Power Africa, the [2017 Superior Honor Group Award](#) for the development of the Agency's construction risk policy, the [2020 Meritorious Honor Award](#) for his efforts in the USAID/Southern Africa Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group, the [2021 Franklin Award](#) for his dedication to the COVID vaccination clinics, the [2021 Eagle Award](#) for the COVID Vaccine Distribution, the [2021 Franklin Award](#) for installation of 131 handwashing stations at schools in South Africa, the [2021 Group Mission Award](#) for the Ubunye Roof repair, the [2023 Meritorious Honor Award](#) for expanding localization & infrastructure improvements of health facilities, and the [2023 Group Mission Award](#) for optimizing vehicle logistics & life safety protection during Secretary of State Blinken's negotiations to strengthen bilateral relations with South Africa.

Dr. Shelby was also selected as a [Power 50 US National Security and Foreign Affairs Leader](#) by the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the Diversity in National Security Network in 2021.

For his dedication to public service and his commitment to the betterment of society, Dr. Shelby received the [2022 Mark Bingham Award for Excellence in Achievement by a Young Alumni](#) from the UC Berkeley.

For his pursuit of understanding, discovery, innovation, and problem-solving to significantly impact the state of Alabama and the nation, Dr. Shelby was bestowed the [inaugural 2023 Alabama School of Mathematics and Science Dragon Legacy Distinguished Alum Award and Lecture](#).

Dr. Shelby is also a 2024 International Career Advancement Program (ICAP) fellow.

Dr. Shelby completed his Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley in Mechanical Engineering where he focused on the user needs analysis, co-design and implementation of sustainable homes and energy systems that met the cultural and tribal sovereignty needs of Native American tribes in California.

Dr. Shelby received his M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley with a concentration in design, and his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University with a concentration in propulsion systems.



Shorten Bio

Dr. Ryan Shelby is a Career Diplomat & Congressional Liaison Officer serving within USAID's Bureau of Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA) since 2023.

Prior to his current position, Dr. Shelby served in the US Diplomatic Mission to South Africa (2019-2023) and led a team that focused on countering malign development practices and addressing corruption-enabling vulnerabilities in strategic infrastructure growth sectors: artificial intelligence, digital, critical minerals, water, energy, & extreme weather resilient infrastructure in 18 countries.

A native of Alabama, Dr. Shelby completed his Ph.D. and M.S. at the University of California, Berkeley in Mechanical Engineering and his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University.

In 2019, Dr. Shelby was awarded [the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal for National Security and International Affairs](#), given to the U.S. Government officials who have fostered innovation and have provided the greatest benefit to the American people.

In 2021, Dr. Shelby received the [C. Herbert Rees Rising Star Award](#), given to one mid-career employee whose performance demonstrates potential for continued growth & ability to assume greater responsibility in USAID.

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For his pursuit of understanding, discovery, innovation, and problem-solving to help impact the state of Alabama and the nation, Dr. Shelby received the [inaugural 2023 Alabama School of Mathematics and Science Dragon Legacy Distinguished Alum Award](#).

Dr. Shelby is also a 2024 International Career Advancement Program (ICAP) fellow and serves as an [Advisory Board Member for the Blum Center Master of Development Engineering program](#) at the University of California, Berkeley.

