

RYAN SHELBY

2025 BROOKINGS LEGIS FELLOW

CONTACT

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Washington, DC, USA

SKILLS & EXPERTISE

Commercial Diplomacy & Trade
Countering Malign Influence
Cyber & Digital Infrastructure
Agriculture & Natural Resource Stewardship
STEM Workforce Pipeline
Industrial Policy Development
Infrastructure Design & Rehabilitation

HONORS

International Career Advancement Program (ICAP), Fellow, 2024
Inaugural Dragon Legacy Distinguished Alum Award & Lecture, Alabama School of Mathematics and Science, 2023
Mark Bingham Award for Excellence in Achievement by a Young Alumni, University of California, Berkeley, 2022
Power 50 US National Security and Foreign Affairs Leader, CSIS, 2021
Service to America Medal in National Security and International Affairs, Partnership for Public Service, 2019

EDUCATION

PhD, Mechanical Engineering
University of California, Berkeley
MS, Mechanical Engineering
University of California, Berkeley
BS, Mechanical Engineering
Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

Inaugural Advisory Board Member, Blum Center
Master of Development Engineering, 2020 - 2024
Marvel Comics & MCU Fan
Sci-Fi and History Lover
LEGO Builder
Agriculture and Cattle Ranching Roots

SUMMARY

Alabama native & seasoned relationship builder in infrastructure, trade, agriculture, energy, foreign affairs, national security, engineering education, project management, logistics, budget analysis, & strategy implementation

WORK EXPERIENCE

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Sept 2013 - Current

Congressional Liaison Officer Sept 2023 - Current; Washington, DC

- Serves as the primary advisor to bureaus regarding strategic and tactical decisions needed to defend and gain acceptance of legislation and appropriations favorable to Agency interests
- Provides guidance on responding effectively to Congressional inquiries and dispenses pertinent assessments of Congressional attitudes towards issues relevant to Agency operations and its budget
- Prepares officials for Congressional briefings and hearings & manages logistics for engagement with Congressional stakeholders

Supervisory Regional Engineering Officer Oct 2019 - Aug 2023; South Africa

- Served as the infrastructure diplomacy lead for 18 countries and provided technical guidance on countering malign development practices in digital, critical minerals, water & energy sectors
- Served as Motor Vehicle Control Officer & optimized logistics for Sec. of State Blinken's August 2022 visit to South Africa
- Co-created interagency strategy to counter malign influence of state actors that undermined the US-South Africa bilateral relationship

Foreign Service Engineering Officer Sept 2017 - Sept 2019; Haiti

- Oversaw reconstruction of 5,000 home roofs with structural upgrades
- Provided 2,025 people with training in roof rehabilitation techniques
- Rehabilitated public toilets, latrines and handwashing stations at 12 schools and four cholera clinics for 3,772 students and 153 teachers
- Supervised the reconstruction of 1.3 km of roadway in Canaan

Senior Energy Engineering Advisor Sept 2013 - Sept 2017; Washington, DC

- Served as program manager for awards under the \$47M Powering Agriculture: Energy Grand Challenge for Development initiative
- Developed briefing notes on increasing private sector investment in emerging energy markets in target countries for Power Africa initiative

Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Jan 2013 - July 2013

Science, Technology, & Innovation Fellow

- Developed policy briefs & case studies on the lessons learned from the electrification efforts of Brazil, China, Nepal, and Vietnam
- Identified options and designs for increased electricity services in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Benin, Tanzania, & Malawi

National Academy of Engineering (NAE) Aug 2012 - Jan 2013

J. Herbert Hollomon and Mirzayan Science & Technology Policy Fellow

- Developed policy briefs on election violence & internally displaced persons in Libya, Haiti, & Kenya for the NAE & U.S. Institute of Peace Roundtable on Technology, Science & Peacebuilding
- Performed desk review of US higher education alignment to the NAE's *The Engineer of 2020 and Educating the Engineer of 2020* reports