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# FORTUNE

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**INFLUENTIAL FRIENDS** Interns and mentors with Laura Bush

## A POWERFUL FORCE

EACH YEAR IN THE FALL, FORTUNE gathers female leaders from business, government, academia, and the arts for a conference called the Most Powerful Women Summit. It's a place to hash out issues, of course, and to look for ways to use the collective power in the room to do some good. Summit participants funded a women's resource center in Afghanistan, Teach for America and Project ALS in the U.S., and the Mothers Programmes, an organization that helps African women with AIDS support themselves through their handiwork. Now there's a new project: the International Women Leaders Mentoring Partnership, which brings young businesswomen from around the world to intern with some of the Most Powerful Women. FORTUNE recruits the mentors—including Xerox CEO Anne Mulcahy, Avon CEO Andrea Jung, and Time Inc. CEO Ann Moore—and the U.S. State Department, working with embassies around the world, nominates interns. Vital Voices, an international nonprofit chaired by Melanne Verveer, who was Hillary Clinton's chief of staff when she was First Lady, helps administer the program.

Seventeen extraordinary young women from 14 countries—including Bolivia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa—met with First Lady Laura Bush and the President's top female advisors on May 1. In the days that followed, the interns were introduced to Hillary Clinton and former HP CEO Carly Fiorina, then flew off to spend three weeks with their mentors in cities across the U.S. They'll surely learn a few things they can apply back home. We'll learn something too, when we bring some of these remarkable young people to this fall's Most Powerful Women Summit—where the theme is, appropriately, Embracing the Future.

ERIC POOLEY, MANAGING EDITOR

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