In 2005, the Thunderbird for Good initiative was created to leverage Thunderbird’s expertise in international business education to teach people in emerging and underserved markets how to start and grow small businesses.

**Entrepreneurship is one of the few ways people can lift themselves out of poverty.**

It began with a program designed to provide learning opportunities for women in Afghanistan who were hungry for knowledge and opportunity. Today, this outreach has spread to include non-traditional students from underserved markets all over the world. As the menu of on-site, on-location, and online programs has grown, so has Thunderbird’s list of funding partners, mentors and faculty.

Starting and growing a company takes courage anywhere. But the challenges are multiplied for men and women at the base of the pyramid in emerging markets such as Afghanistan, Haiti, Peru and Pakistan and Native American communities of the United States. Aspiring entrepreneurs in these countries and communities have passion and tenacity, but too often they often lack knowledge to write business plans, manage cash flow and market their enterprises.

**A LEGACY OF SUPPORTING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS**

An initiative that began with women in emerging markets has spread, and today includes men and women around the globe who are generating outcomes that create sustainable prosperity worldwide. Thunderbird for Good programs are sponsored by corporate partners or funded through grants, delivered by Thunderbird faculty, and are often supported by Thunderbird alumni who live and work in these underserved markets.

More than 130,000 graduates of these programs across 60+ countries create jobs, share knowledge and improve living conditions in their communities.
PROJECT ARTEMIS Thunderbird for Good’s flagship program, Project Artemis-Afghanistan is a unique business skills training program that aims to build the entrepreneurial skills of promising Afghan businesswomen. This program includes two weeks of business and entrepreneurial decision-making training, site visits, cultural outings, mentorship by women entrepreneurs, and follow-up support and online business coaching.

WEAMERICAS ACCELERATOR Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, the WEAmericas Accelerator brings together three cohorts of women entrepreneurs from seven Central American countries for an intensive, interactive training program that features face-to-face business courses designed by Thunderbird faculty, professional and peer mentoring, access to local training and networking events, and access to potential investors.

DREAMCATCHER DreamCatcher is a business training program for Native American women entrepreneurs from the Hualapai, Tohono O’odham, San Carlos Apache, and White Mountain Apache tribes in Arizona. The Freeport-McMoRan Foundation created DreamCatcher in partnership with Thunderbird for Good. Based on Thunderbird for Good’s proven training programs for business women, DreamCatcher brings cohorts of Native American businesswomen to Thunderbird’s Arizona campus for an intensive week of training.

THE GOLDMAN SACHS 10,000 WOMEN INITIATIVE A five-year investment by Goldman Sachs to provide 10,000 underserved women around the world with a business and management education. 10,000 Women operates through a network of more than 70 academic and non-profit partners. Thunderbird partnered with local universities to develop the curriculum, train the trainer and provide ongoing support throughout the program. Thunderbird has operated 10,000 Women Initiatives in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Peru.