

**Alexandra Dahm**

**Newton Fellows Microcredential**

**Values Statement:** I value integrity, accountability, and growth. I try to do the right thing even when it's not the easiest option, and I hold myself to a high standard in how I lead others. I care a lot about building genuine relationships based on trust and respect. I also value growth, both for myself and for the people around me, and I'm always trying to improve and learn from my experiences.

**Leadership Point of View:** To me, leadership is about showing up consistently and making a positive impact on the people around you. It's not about being in charge, it's about being someone others can rely on, and helping people grow. I try to lead by example, take responsibility for my actions, and be someone people trust. I think the best leaders are the ones who are intentional with what they do, communicate honestly, and actually care about the people they're leading. For me, leadership is about helping others succeed in their goals and journey while learning to lead myself.

**Reflection of Newton Fellows:** The Newton Fellowship has had a huge impact on my life and development in just this one year. Going into it, I didn't fully realize how much the small things would matter, but I've learned that how I communicate and how I handle uncomfortable situations play a big role in the kind of leader I am becoming. Those everyday actions have a bigger impact than I used to think.

I also grew a lot in being more direct and proactive, especially in group settings. In the past, I might have waited for someone else to step up, but this year I've started taking more ownership when it matters most. That shift has helped me build confidence in my decisions and in my ability to lead, even in situations that feel uncertain or uncomfortable.

Another big takeaway from this experience was the people. I would have never met most of my cohort otherwise, and being around people I initially thought I might not have much in common with ended up being one of the most valuable parts of the program. It pushed me to be more open-minded and intentional in how I connect with others. I realized that being exposed to different perspectives is not just helpful, it's necessary for growth.

Overall, this experience helped me better understand myself, how I show up in different environments, and the kind of leader I want to be moving forward. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity!