Ms. Mariana Mazzucato, Professor of University College London (UCL)

Ms. Mariana Mazzucato (PhD) is Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value at University College London (UCL), where she is Founding Director of the UCL Institute for Innovation & Public Purpose. She is winner of international prizes including the Grande Ufficiale Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana in 2021, the 2020 John von Neumann Award, the 2019 All European Academies Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values, and 2018 Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought. Most recently, Pope Francis appointed her to the Pontifical Academy for Life for bringing ‘more humanity’ to the world. As well as The Entrepreneurial State: debunking public vs. private sector myths (2013), she is the author of The Value of Everything: Making and Taking in the Global Economy (2018), Mission Economy: A Moonshot Guide to Changing Capitalism (2021), and most recently The Big Con: How the Consulting Industry Weakens our Businesses, Infantilizes our Governments and Warps our Economies (2023). She advises policymakers around the world on innovation-led inclusive and sustainable growth. Her roles have included the Chair of the World Health Organization’s Council on the Economics of Health for All, Co-Chair of the Global Commission on the Economics of Water, and a member of the South African President’s Economic Advisory Council.

Ms. Charitie Ropati, Arctic Youth Ambassador / Girl Rising Fellow / Recipient of the WWF-US 2023 Conservation Leadership Award

Ms. Charitie Ropati is an activist and ecologist of Yup’ik and Samoan heritage who researches the connections between plant ecology, permafrost, and cultural resilience in coastal Native communities. She is an Arctic Youth Ambassador, an Arctic Resilient Youth Communities Fellow, and an Aspen Ideas Fellow. She is also the recipient of the WWF-US 2023 Conservation Leadership Award. She co-founded a non-profit called “lilnativegirlinSTEM,” which promotes equity in STEM for Indigenous women and girls and works to create access to education and climate justice for Indigenous voices. She is pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in civil engineering and anthropology at Columbia University in New York City.