Midland, Michigan – November 30, 2017 – Two research leaders at Michigan State University’s the Axia Institute have been selected for the prestigious 2018 MSU Academy for Global Engagement (AGE) fellowship program, an initiative designed to empower early- to mid-career faculty to become the next generation of groundbreaking global researchers.

Axia’s Bahar Aliakbarian and Amanpreet Kaur will be two of 10 members of the 2018 AGE cohort. The year-long experience includes monthly presentations on campus, a convening of external stakeholders representing federal agencies and foundations, a three-day trip to Washington D.C. to meet with key program officers aligned with a participant’s research interests, and field-based research in a location of each participant’s choosing.

“This is a significant opportunity for Bahar and Amanpreet, and will serve to advance the mission of the Institute as well as interdisciplinary initiatives within the University,” said Katherine A. Franz, executive director of the Axia Institute. “As we strive to address industry grand challenges, their participation in the AGE fellowship program will further strengthen our value proposition to corporate and academic partners.”

Located in downtown Midland, Michigan, the Axia Institute sees value chains through an integrative lens, conducting applied research that companies can use to revolutionize their businesses. Axia is one of the research centers and institutes within the Eli Broad College of Business at MSU.

Aliakbarian is research associate professor at Axia and a member of MSU’s Supply Chain Management faculty. She holds a doctorate in chemical, process and material engineering from the University of Genova in Italy, where she also earned a master’s degree in chemical engineering. Her research focuses on integrating the fundamentals of food engineering, biochemical engineering, and micro- and nano-engineering technologies leading to the formulation of new products with biomedical applications.

Kaur is research assistant professor at Axia and a member of MSU’s Supply Chain Management faculty. She holds a doctorate in electrical engineering from MSU, as well as a master’s degree in electronics product design from PEC University of Technology in India. Her research focuses on intelligent packaging and adding functionality to packaging systems.

About Axia
The Axia Institute, formerly Midland Research Institute for Value Chain Creation, is a premier research and education center dedicated to developing effective and sustainable solutions to improve public and private value chains. Established by Michigan State University in 2013, the Axia Institute partners with industry to solve grand challenges and conducts cross-disciplinary research in areas of value chain optimization, data analytics, engineering, smart
packaging, anti-counterfeiting, and water and food safety. The Institute was founded by leaders in value chain creation and development at MSU, including the Eli Broad College of Business, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, College of Engineering, College of Social Science, and School of Packaging. Founding donors include The Dow Chemical Company, Dow Corning Corporation, Herbert H. & Grace A. Dow Foundation, Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, The Dow Chemical Company Foundation, and the Charles J. Strosacker Foundation. Visit our website at axiainstitute.com for more information about the Institute and its programs and services.

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