

Study Abroad as a Public Good:

Identifying and Enhancing Underrepresented Students' Professional Growth through International Experience



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2019 CIEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

BROOKLYN

NOVEMBER 6-8, 2019

3:30 - 4:45 PM



STUDY ABROAD 2019 | OPENING DOORS TO INCREASE DIVERSITY IN STUDY ABROAD

Presenters

Moderator:

- Michelle Pickard, Director, Gilman International Scholarship Program, Institute of International Education (IIE)

Presenters:

- Ryanna Miller, Gilman Alumni & 2019 Alumni Ambassador, rymiller_52@yahoo.com
- Sandra Cortez, Assistant Director, International Programs & Community Engagement, Lehman College, CUNY, SANDRA.CORTEZ@lehman.cuny.edu
- Julissa Contreras-Martinez, Director, Scholarship Center, York College, jcontreras@york.cuny.edu

U.S. Study Abroad Over Time

U.S. STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS 1991/92 – 2016/17

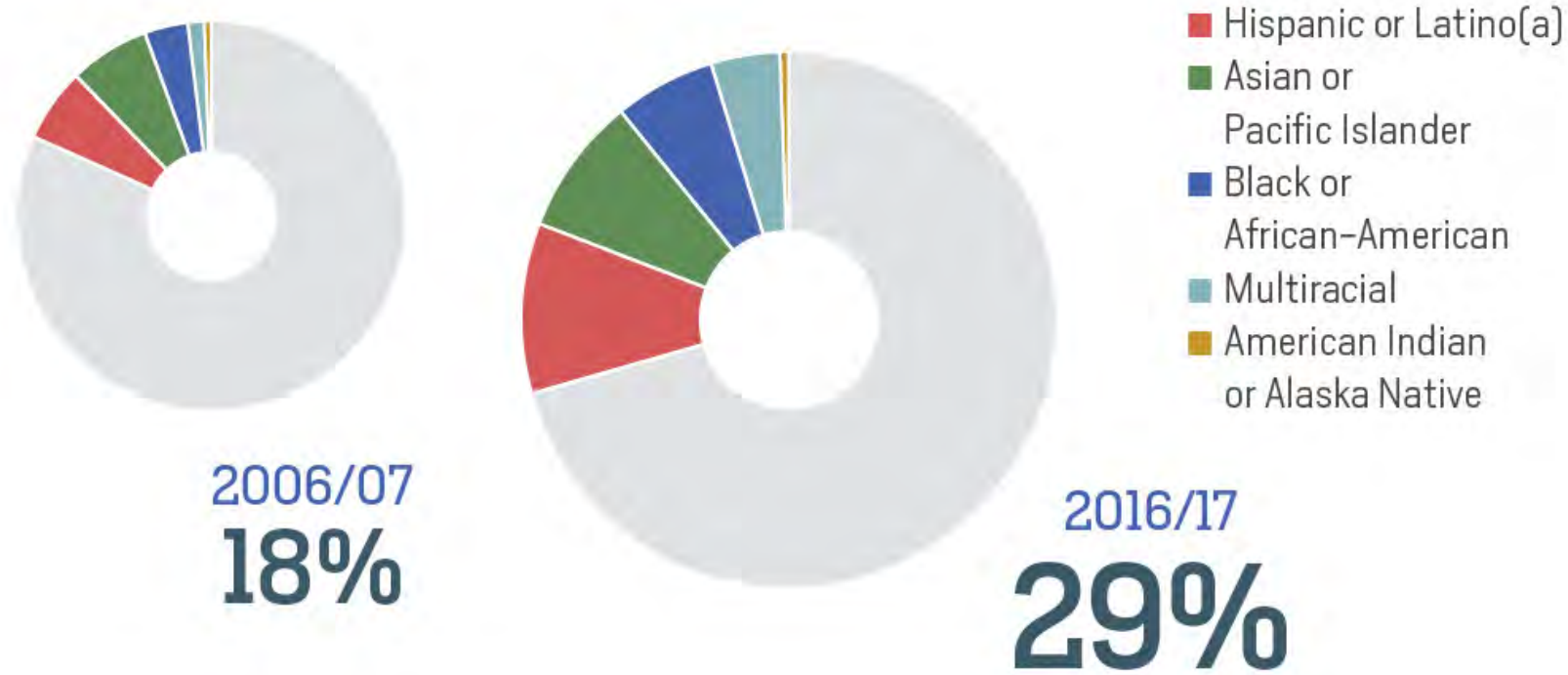


RACE/ETHNICITY

	2006/07	2011/12	2016/17
White	81.9	76.4	70.8
Hispanic or Latino[a]	6.0	7.6	10.2
Asian or Pacific Islander	6.7	7.7	8.2
Black or African-American	3.8	5.3	6.1
Multiracial	1.2	2.5	4.3
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.5	0.5	0.4
TOTAL U.S. STUDENTS ABROAD	241,791	283,332	332,727

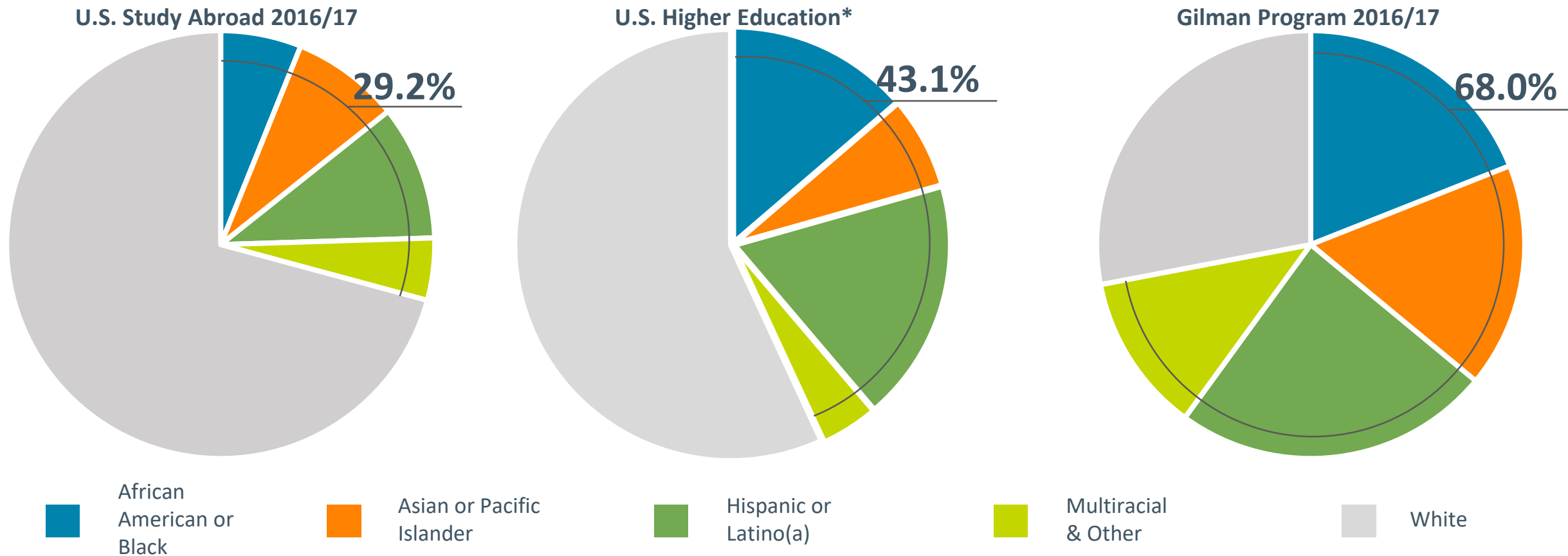
In 2016/17 there was **an increase of 2%** over the prior year in the number of U.S. students studying abroad.

Race and Ethnicity of U.S. Study Abroad Students



The proportion of U.S. minority students studying abroad has increased modestly over the past ten years.

Targeted outreach, recruitment, and funding helps diversify study abroad participants



*U.S. Department of Education, *Digest of Education Statistics*, 2016

Duration of U.S. Study Abroad

65%
short-term

summer, or eight weeks or less

33%
mid-length

one semester, or one or two quarters

2%
long-term

academic or calendar year

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Top Majors of Study of U.S. Study Abroad Students



STEM Fields
26%



Business
21%



Social Sciences
17%

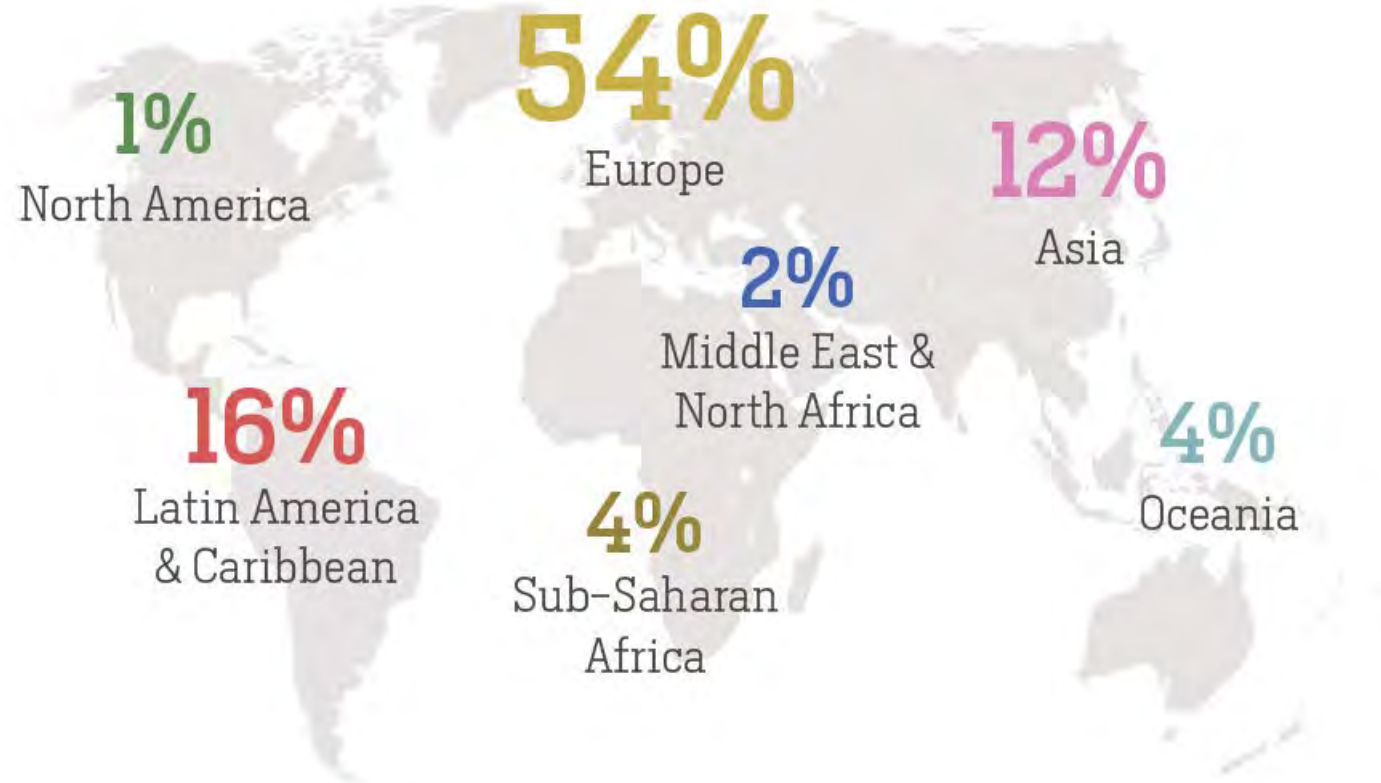


Foreign Language &
International Studies
7%



Fine &
Applied Arts
6%

Host Regions

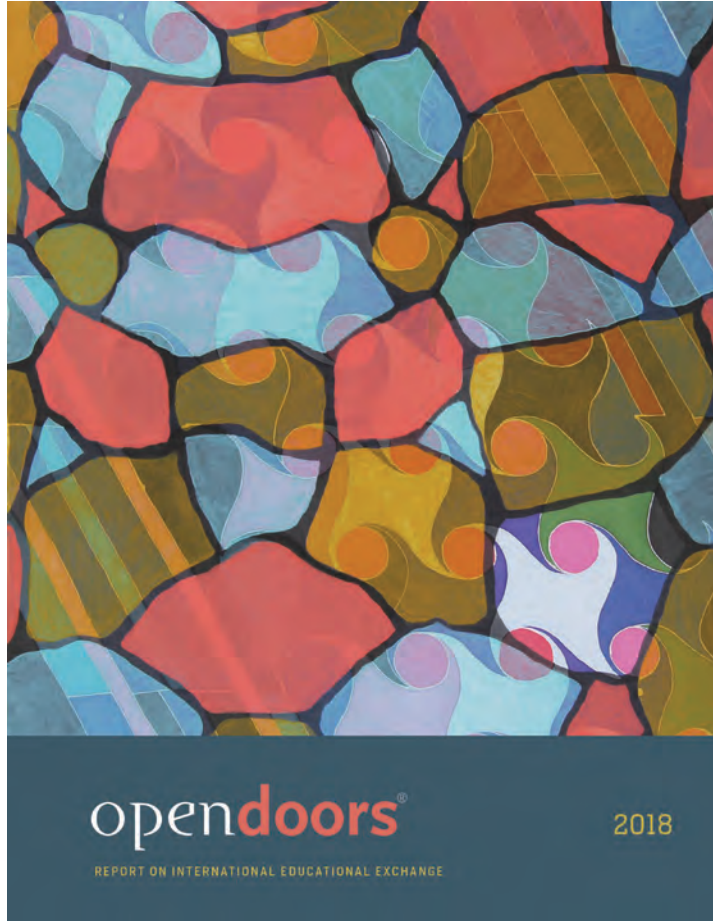


Europe hosts **over half** of U.S. study abroad students.

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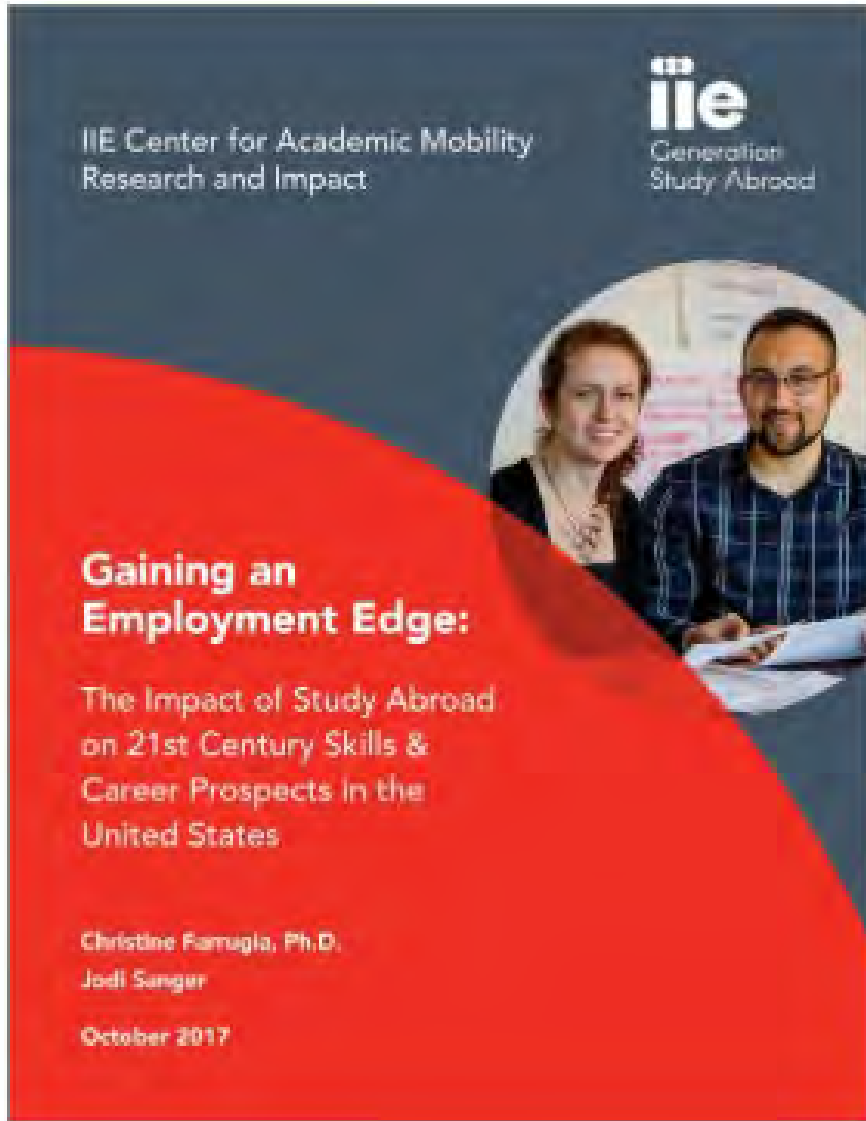
2019 - Open Doors Press Conference



2019 Study Abroad Data!

The 2019 *Open Doors* Annual Data Release will be held on Monday, November 18, in Washington, D.C.

Study Abroad & Gaining the Employment Edge



- The study investigates the connection between study abroad programs and the development of skills that contribute to employment and career development in today's workforce.
- This national study of study abroad alumni surveyed a broad sample of over 4,500 alumni of U.S. higher education institutions who participated in study abroad between 1999/00 and 2016/17.

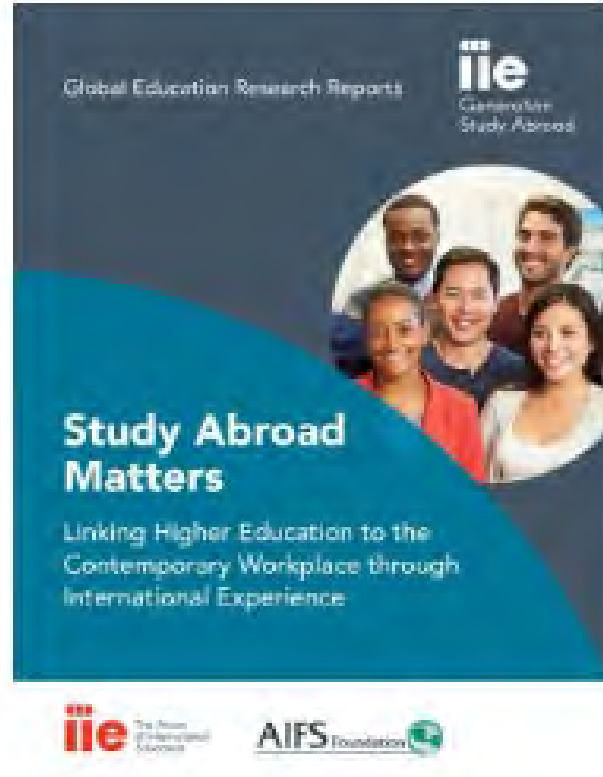
Key Findings

- 1. Study abroad has an overall positive impact on the development of a wide range of 21st century job skills including:** curiosity, flexibility & adaptability, confidence, self-awareness, interpersonal skills, communication, problem solving, language, tolerance for ambiguity, and course or major-related knowledge.
- 2. Study abroad expands career possibilities.** Studying abroad gave interviewees both a broader understanding of career possibilities, and the confidence to pursue these career paths.
- 3. The skills gained through study abroad have a long-term impact on career progression and promotion.** More than half of survey respondents reported that they believe their study abroad experience contributed to a job offer at some point.
- 4. Longer periods of study abroad have a high impact on subsequent job offers and the development of most skills. Short term programs are most effective at developing teamwork skills.** 68 percent reported study abroad contributing to a job offer at some point.

Key Findings Continued

- 5. STEM majors highly value the gains made in skills outside of their majors during study abroad.** STEM majors described academic programs at home as more insular and viewed study abroad as an opportunity to gain “soft” skills that others in their fields lack.
- 6. Choosing a less familiar destination was positively associated with skill development and sense of career impact.** Students going to places that were less familiar to them culturally were more likely to describe a clear impact on skill development and career utility.
- 7. Student intentionality and highly structured programs contribute to skill development.** Having career prospects in mind prior to choosing to study abroad had an overall positive impact on the ability of those interviewed to articulate their skill development and the impact it had on their career. Let’s plant the seeds early on!

Resources – *Underrepresented Students, Study Abroad, and Employment*



- Free - ***A Parents Guide to Study Abroad*** (available in English and Spanish)

iie.org



Ryanna Miller

Studied Abroad in South Africa, 2012

Ryanna Miller, South Africa 2012

- Duke University's Organization of Tropical Studies (OTS)
- Global Health Issues in South Africa
- Summer 2012
- 6-week program, spent mainly in rural villages
- Rigorous research based, (4 credit-hours)
- Awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship





Going Abroad

The Study Abroad Experience

- Shadowed community health workers, visited clinics, learned of the legal policies of healthcare in South Africa
- Conducted research during the homestay and presented findings at a symposium for leaders in human rights and health care
- Experience was not perfect, many scary and new moments
- Allowed to completely demolish any idea of a “comfort zone”



The Study Abroad Experience Continued



The Study Abroad Experience Continued



Alabama A&M University

- Department of Social Sciences requirement to either complete a study abroad or internship
- Chairperson – Dr. Ronald Slaughter, urged study abroad
- International Study Office – Ms. Mary, found the Gilman Scholarship from simple Google search
- Originally from Anchorage, Alaska – Alabama A&M was a complete culture shock
- Returned to graduate number 1 in School, Summa Cum Laude, BA Political Science w/ International Relations focus

A nighttime photograph of the Brooklyn Bridge and Lower Manhattan skyline. The bridge's stone towers and suspension cables are illuminated, and the city buildings in the background are lit up with warm yellow and blue lights. The sky is a deep twilight blue.

Returning from Abroad

Professional Career & Impact of Study Abroad

- MA in International Relations concentrating in Conflict Resolution & International Negotiation
- 2017-2019, Director of Public Private-Partnerships at Invest Sou Sou
- DC REALTOR® at Compass
- Owner of a DC & Maryland Business
- Co-Founder of Diplomatic Perspective
- Brookings Institute - Member, Robert S. Brookings Society
- Young Professionals In Foreign Policy (YFPF)



The Role of the Gilman Scholarship

- Completed Follow on Service Project: HBCU Gilman Tour
- Engaged Black fraternities and sororities to think more globally
- Granted as an International Exchange Alumni through the U.S. Department of State
- Support during Graduate study at American University
- Asked to speak at 2018 Concordia Summit by fellow Gilman Alumna
- 2019-2020 Gilman Alumni Ambassador
- Serving as a role model to other diverse students who never knew studying abroad was possible



Overall Impact of Studying Abroad

- Enhanced my travel experience; ie, Solo travel
- Led to finding biological family in 2016
- Fully fearless
- The importance of peace of mind & overall health
- Became plant-based in 2013 (due to chicken experience while abroad)
- Transferable intercultural communication skills
- Leader amongst friends and family of global travel and international relations

Advice to Study Abroad Advisors

- 1) Study Abroad as a requirement
- 2) Assist students in research of programs
- 3) Become a Gilman Campus Administrator
- 4) Seek “non-traditional” study abroad students.
- 5) Offer parental/guardian support and access



Sandra Cortez

Assistant Director, Office of International Programs
& Community Engagement
Lehman College, CUNY

Lehman College

Senior Liberal Arts College, Hispanic Serving Institution

- Undergraduate Student Population: 12,639
- Graduate Student Population: 2,148
- Transfer Student Population: 68%
- Pell Recipients: 55%
- First Generation College Students: 56%



LEHMAN
COLLEGE

Office of International Programs & Community Engagement

- Global Partnerships & Study Abroad
- International Student and Scholar Services
- Local Community Engagement and Volunteering
- Service Learning Programs (National & International)
- Peace Corps Prep Program

Challenges

- Commuter School
- Low-income households
- High transfer student population
- Family restrictions
- Under-resourced



Study Abroad Growth

Study Abroad Participants

- 2016-2017: 56 students
- 2017-2018: 140 students
- 2018-2019: 163 students



Gilman Scholarship Recipients

- **2015-2016 Academic Year:**
4 Gilman Offers
- **By 2019:**
60 Gilman Offers



How did we do it?

New Program and Structural Initiatives

- Lehman in the Provinces
- Lehman L.I.F.E. Service Learning Programs
- Community College Collaboration
- Faculty Outreach



Changing the Narrative

Scholarship & Program Applications

- Open to all who meet eligibility
- Not only for the top students
- Demystifying the personal statement
- Raising awareness across campus
- Anecdotes



Internal and External Collaborations

- CIEE
- Office Of Prestigious Awards
- Peace Corps
- Career Services
- Percy Ellis Sutton SEEK Program
- Adult Degree Program
- Freshman College
- Community College Collaboration
- International Nonprofits



Building our campus knowledge

- Registrar
- Financial Aid, TAP & Excelsior Scholarship
- Academic Departments & Advising Departments



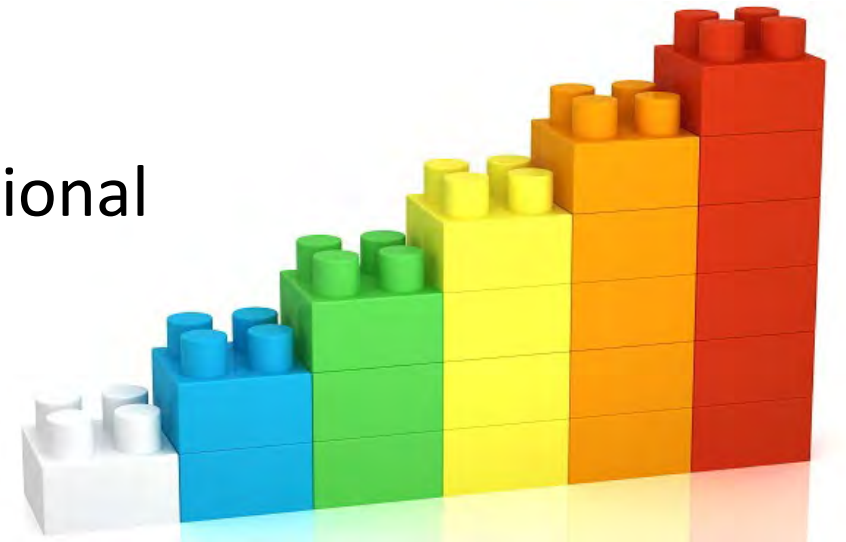
Gilman Essay – Career Goals

- Expanding on vague concepts
- Student research into prospective fields
- Connecting with career services
- Relying on returnees



Preparing Our Students

- Orientation – skill building activities
- Re-Entry – reflection and connection to next opportunities
- Career Services Workshops – catered to international experience
- Local Service & Engagement



Where Are Our Students Now?

- Accounting Firms
- TV and Film Industry
- Government Positions
- Fulbright
- Education
- Medical Field
- International Field
- NGO's & Community Development and more!





Julissa Contreras

Director, Scholarship Center
York College

Why Study Abroad?

1. Connect your classroom experience to the world
2. Learn a language in the country it is spoken
3. Gain viable skills for your career
4. Experience your career abroad



Barriers

1. Money
2. Parents
3. Safety



Promoting Through Collaboration

1. Student Development
2. Faculty
3. Students



A nighttime photograph of the New York City skyline, featuring the Manhattan Bridge in the foreground and several illuminated skyscrapers in the background. The word "Discussion" is overlaid in large white text in the center of the image.

Discussion



Ensuring Diverse Students are Competitive Upon Graduation/Job Search

1. What does your campus do to reach underrepresented students?
2. How do you tie in study abroad to careers and employment?



THANK YOU CIEE

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