

SELWAN FADHIL | UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, 2014

- First-generation college student, Electrical Engineering major at University of Nebraska
- Met professional leaders through the U.S. Embassy
- Became more confident in facing new situations and renewed his academic motivation
- Presented the Gilman Scholarship to local high school seniors and engineering students at his university

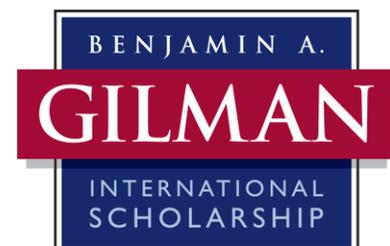


Gilman Alumni Ambassador

While abroad, Selwan took math courses towards his degree and experienced teaching methods different than those in the United States. This helped him to learn how to adapt and analyze problems from a different perspective. Personally, he learned how to handle challenging situations on his own, which he had not had the chance to do at his home institution. His time abroad inspired him to work harder at his academics, enhanced his time management skills, and helped him determine the type of person, student and professional he wanted to be. Professionally, Selwan expanded his network by attending events at the U.S. Embassy and U.S. Consulate, where he met Foreign Service Officers who provided useful advice on how to improve his own leadership skills.

When he returned to the U.S., Selwan sought to inspire high school students in his local area, encouraging them to consider studying abroad when they go to college. In addition, he always encourages other engineering students at his university to fit study abroad into their curriculum.

“The most important lesson I learned from my experience abroad was how to adapt to new environments.”



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The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship is a program of the U.S. Department of State, supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education (IIE). The Program offers grants for U.S. citizen undergraduate students of limited financial means to pursue academic studies or credit-bearing, career-oriented internships abroad. Such international exchange is intended to better prepare U.S. students to assume significant roles in an increasingly global economy and interdependent world.