

GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ALUMNI PROFILE

CORTNEY SANDERS | GHANA, 2014

- Government at the University of Texas at Austin
- Studied at the University of Ghana to learn about Ghanaian communities and culture
- Gained professional experience through consulting non-profit and government officials
- Presented about the Gilman Scholarship at schools in the greater Houston area

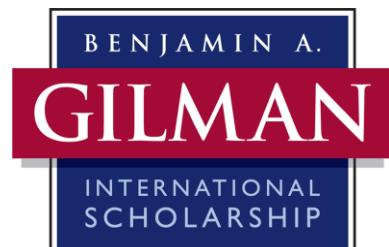


Gilman Alumni Ambassador

During her summer abroad, Cortney was involved in Ghana's efforts to enhance their economic development and growth through sustainable outreach, particularly in the tourism and art sector with the Helping Hands Apprentice Program (HHAP). When she was working with HHAP, Cortney realized that public service along with economic prosperity was important to her. After this experience, she decided to apply for policy school and focus on ways in which entrepreneurs could give to communities socially and economically.

Cortney's time in Ghana provided her with a sense of purpose for her community along with a clear vision of what she wants to do in the future. For her Follow-on Service Project, she went to a local charter school in Houston, Texas and facilitated presentations about studying abroad in places like Ghana. Cortney is a Master's in Public Policy student at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and her mission is to spread the word about study abroad to undergraduate students.

"The most significant attribute I gained from my experience abroad was finding my passion in public service and policy."



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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.