



Kelly “Vee” Kennedy

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

Japan, 2013

“My study and teach abroad program changed the direction of my life and directly led to my first career after college.”

Vee studied Japanese politics and intensive Japanese language in Japan in 2013. While in Japan, Vee participated in a teach abroad program and lived with a Japanese host family. After graduation, Vee returned to Japan as an English teacher and translator.

Vee is pursuing concurrent Master of Arts degrees in creative writing, rhetoric, and composition. They are studying writing program administration and creating initiatives to support English Language Learners and disabled students in college writing classes. In 2019, Vee was voted Outstanding Teacher of the Year in Eastern Michigan University’s First Year Writing Program. They are currently applying to PhD programs in both the United States and Japan, with plans to continue teaching and living in both countries throughout their life.

- ★ Studied Japanese language and culture at Eastern Michigan University and the University of Michigan
- ★ Returned to Japan to teach after college
- ★ Created resources for LGBTQIA students studying in Japan



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