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## **University of Texas at Austin Hosts U.S. Future Leaders Entrepreneurship and Innovation Seminar for Alumni of U.S. Department of State Programs**

From September 26-27, the University of Texas at Austin will host a U.S. Future Leaders Entrepreneurship and Innovation Seminar for approximately 75 alumni of two prestigious U.S. Department of State programs, the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program and the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program. This workshop is part of the State Department's ongoing effort to partner with academic and industry experts to position Gilman and CLS alumni as future American leaders across public and private sectors in fields of importance to U.S. national security and economic prosperity. ECA hosted previous seminars this year on entrepreneurship and innovation at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs in August and on energy and natural resources at the University of Wyoming in September.

Seminar attendees will build on their international experiences from a sectoral perspective as they participate in hands-on trainings on entrepreneurship and innovation. They will also expand their professional networks as they engage with U.S. leaders from the public and private sectors. Attendees will leave the seminar with both the cross-cultural skills and industry knowledge they need to launch or further build their careers in entrepreneurship and innovation.

"Gilman Scholars and Critical Language Scholars, whether through an internship or study abroad, gain critical skills to adapt and function in a cross-cultural environment," said Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Marie Royce. "We are pleased to support our outstanding alumni through these career-enhancing initiatives."

The Gilman and CLS Programs are programs of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, with funding provided by the U.S. Government. The Gilman Program provides over 3,000 scholarships a year to American undergraduate students who might not otherwise study abroad due to financial constraints. The Gilman Program is supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education. The CLS Program provides fully funded overseas opportunities for 550 American undergraduate and graduate students to study one of 15 languages that are critical to national security and economic prosperity. The CLS Program is supported in its implementation by American Councils for International Education.

To learn more about ECA's programs and how its diverse alumni are entering into impactful careers in the government, non-profit, and private sectors, contact [eca-press@state.gov](mailto:eca-press@state.gov) and visit [www.studyabroad.state.gov](http://www.studyabroad.state.gov).

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