# Ishmael Williams

Gilman Program Alumni Ambassador

*Peru, 2018*

***"As a career counselor, I am helping students better their thoughts, actions, and lives."***

Ishmael interned abroad as a Gilman Scholar during summer 2018. His experience as a Gilman Scholar confirmed his passion for public and community health and sharpened his desire to help people. Ishmael believes it is important to explore and experience as much of the world as possible, and that to better understand the world is to better understand yourself. At the beginning of his internship in Peru, Ishmael experienced "culture shock"; this opportunity gave him a new lens through which to view his life.

After returning from Peru, Ishmael completed a fellowship with the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and later conducted research with the Brancati Center at Johns Hopkins University as a Doctoral Diversity Scholar.

As a Gilman Scholar, Ishmael learned that health care is not the only way to help people improve the quality of their lives. Ishmael currently works as a career counselor with the Potomac Job Corps Center at a vocational school for disadvantaged, at-risk youth. Although he is not currently working in public health, Ishmael is helping others better their lives through other important avenues.

- Earned a Bachelor of Science in Nutritional Science from Howard University
- First-generation college student
- Doctoral Diversity Scholar at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

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