

Kyla Denwood

Gilman Program Alumni Ambassador

Virtual-Global, 2021



“In pursuing this internship, I also learned to be flexible and open to new opportunities.”

Kyla interned abroad through a virtual global internship as a Gilman Scholar in 2021. She completed a virtual summer internship with the Africa team at the United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), where she researched and prepared briefs, memoranda, and marketing materials on a variety of development and trade topics. Her internship with USTDA encouraged her to pursue a career at the nexus of economic development, trade, and private sector engagement. In working on a small team, she was able to draft action memoranda and prepare briefs that were seen by top officials at the agency. Researching global market trends in key African economic sectors as well as regional and country-specific development trends helped her recognize the importance of Africa in the global economy, especially as the continent engages in a demographic transition. It also helped her realize the importance of U.S. competitiveness in trade relations.

Since completing her Gilman Program experience, Kyla has connected with other Gilman Alumni, including working together with another Gilman alum to apply for and receive a U.S. Department of State’s Citizen Diplomacy Action Fund grant. They are applying their grant to start a nonprofit organization that promotes State Department exchanges and career opportunities to diverse college students from non-coastal areas, places typically underrepresented in international affairs. Additionally, Kyla was selected to represent the United States as a Youth Ambassador at Expo 2020 Dubai. She now works as a Research Assistant with the Africa Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. In her position, she is performing policy research on Africa-Europe relations and tech policy throughout the continent.

- Earned a Bachelor of Science in Economics and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a concentration in International Development from Tulane University
- Awarded 2022 Citizen Diplomacy Action Fund grant to develop the Youth International Leadership Initiative
- Research assistant for the Africa Program at Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

