

Soribel Torres-Jimenez

Gilman Program Alumni Ambassador
Costa Rica, 2022



“Studying abroad was what I needed to see what the world has to offer beyond my comfort zone. There is no journey like going abroad and learning beside those who call that place home. The Gilman Program is your sign to take the risk and go abroad!”

- Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship
- Alma Exley Scholarship
- Connecticut Minority Teacher Incentive Grant

Soribel studied abroad in Costa Rica during the summer of 2022. Her program aligned with her studies as an elementary education major with concentrations in mathematics and bilingual education. Her time abroad allowed her to immerse herself in the culture and improve her Spanish language. For a first-generation student, it is one hurdle to attend college and an even larger one to afford a study abroad experience. With the support from Gilman and her alma mater, Soribel was able to teach at a dual-language community school in Costa Rica and gain a deeper understanding of education systems beyond the American context. The Gilman Program gave her the confidence to continue traveling and learning abroad. Following her experience in Costa Rica, Soribel continued to study and teach abroad in Cape Town, South Africa during her master’s year. Soribel graduated with a B.S. in elementary education, with a mathematics concentration, and an M.A. in curriculum and instruction. Costa Rica gave her an intangible wealth of knowledge, global awareness, and a newfound passion for educational policy.

Soribel is entering her first year as a teacher in a dual-language, fourth grade classroom. She chose to teach in her hometown because of the Gilman Follow-on Service Project, which allows scholars to increase awareness of the study abroad experience and to pass along what they learned to their communities. She hopes to infuse her study abroad experiences within her teaching, to begin planting the seed in her community to take advantage of the Gilman Scholarship Program and study abroad. She believes everyone deserves to have the study abroad experience of a lifetime.

