

## **HARPER COLLEGE STUDENT TEAGAN SCHIRMBECK AWARDED U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S BENJAMIN A. GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY ABROAD**

**November 17, 2016** – Teagan Schirmbeck, an Apparel Design and Textile student at Harper College, is one of over 850 American undergraduate students from 359 colleges and universities across the U.S. selected to receive the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's [Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs](#) to study or intern abroad during the spring 2017 term. Teagan will study abroad in Scotland.

Gilman scholars receive up to \$5,000 to apply towards their study abroad or internship program costs. The program offers grants for U.S. citizen undergraduate students of limited financial means to pursue academic studies or credit-bearing, career-oriented internships abroad. Such international exchange is intended to better prepare U.S. students to thrive in the global economy and interdependent world. Students receiving a Federal Pell Grant from two- and four-year institutions who will be studying abroad or participating in a career-oriented international internship for academic credit are eligible to apply. Scholarship recipients have the opportunity to gain a better understanding of other cultures, countries, languages, and economies -- making them better prepared to assume leadership roles within government and the private sector.

Congressman Gilman, who retired in 2002 after serving in the House of Representatives for 30 years and chairing the House Foreign Relations Committee, commented, "Study abroad is a special experience for every student who participates. Living and learning in a vastly different environment of another nation not only exposes our students to alternate views, but also adds an enriching social and cultural experience. It also provides our students with the opportunity to return home with a deeper understanding of their place in the world, encouraging them to be a contributor, rather than a spectator in the international community."

The program is administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE). The full list of students who have been selected to receive Gilman Scholarships, including students' home state, university and host country, is available on their website: [www.iie.org/gilman](http://www.iie.org/gilman). According to Allan Goodman, President and CEO of IIE, "International education is one of the best tools for developing mutual understanding and building connections between people from different countries. It is critical to the success of American diplomacy and business, and the

lasting ties that Americans make during their international studies are important to our country in times of conflict as well as times of peace.”

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*The **U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' (ECA)** mission is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange that assist in the development of peaceful relations. In an effort to reflect the diversity of the United States and global society, ECA programs, funding, and other activities encourage the involvement of American and international participants from traditionally underrepresented groups, including women, racial and ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities. Artists, educators, athletes, students, youth and rising leaders in the United States and more than 160 countries around the globe participate in academic, cultural, sports, and professional exchanges. For more information about ECA programs, initiatives, and achievements, visit <http://eca.state.gov>.*

*The **Institute of International Education (IIE)** is the world leader in the international exchange of people and ideas. An independent, nonprofit organization founded in 1919, the Institute is the world's most experienced global higher education and professional exchange organization. IIE has a network of 19 offices worldwide working with more than 1,200 member institutions and over 6,000 individuals with a commitment to the internationalization of their institutions. IIE designs and implements programs of study and training for students, educators, young professionals and trainees from all sectors with funding from government and private sources. These programs include the Fulbright and Humphrey Fellowships administered for the U.S. Department of State. The Institute is a resource for educators and institutions worldwide (<http://www.iie.org>), publishing the Open Doors Report and operating [www.IIEPassport.org](http://www.IIEPassport.org) and [www.studyabroadfunding.org](http://www.studyabroadfunding.org) search engines for study abroad program and study abroad scholarships. For more information, please contact Lindsay Calvert, Director, Gilman International Scholarship, at 832-369-3481 or [lcalvert@iie.org](mailto:lcalvert@iie.org).*