Minnesota State Mankato Junior Awarded Gilman Scholarship

Minnesota State junior Andrea Vasquez (International Relations, ’18) was recently awarded a Gilman Scholarship. Andrea will study abroad in Bangalore, India through University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC) from January 2017 to May 2017.

The Gilman Scholarship Program aims to diversify the kinds of students who study and intern abroad and the countries and regions where they go by offering awards to U.S. undergraduates who might otherwise not participate due to financial constraints. Andrea is one of 850 outstanding students offered awards by the Gilman Scholarship Program this semester, out of over 2,7000 applications.

In India, Andrea will take a variety of courses at Christ University in Bangalore, ranging from political and economic issues in South Asia to a course on Gandhi and the non-violent protest. The program focuses on Sociology, Service Learning, and Indian Cultural Studies. Andrea is “most excited about the service learning with Centre for Social Action (CSA),” where she will get the opportunity to volunteer in local villages and work with the different programs they offer. Andrea plans “to work with non-profits abroad and hopefully start one up myself that focuses on providing care for seniors, women and children in poverty stricken areas.” Andrea believes this is the next move she needs to make in order to get a better understanding of the world and experience life outside her comfort zone.

Andrea volunteers at Community Against Domestic Abuse (CADA) and is involved with the Chicano Latin-American Student Association (CLASA) on Minnesota State Mankato’s campus. For her follow-on service project, Andrea “will bring along my camera and document my trip as well as keep a journal. When I return I plan to give presentations using my photos and experience from India to a variety of classes.” She will speak on behalf the Gilman Scholarship and the study abroad resources in the Kearney International Center.

Andrea utilized resources in the Office of University Fellowships and the Kearney International Center in her pursuit of this award.

For more information on the Office of University Fellowships at Minnesota State Mankato, see www.mnsu.edu/fellowships.

For more information on the Kearney International Center, see https://www.mnsu.edu/kearneyic/.

For more information on University Studies Abroad Consortium, see http://usac.unr.edu/.

For more information on the Gilman Scholarship, see http://www.iie.org/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program.