

Press Releases: State Department Announces Gilman Top Producing Institutions

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
April 9, 2018

The U.S. Department of State is pleased to announce the inaugural list of U.S. higher education institutions that sent the most students overseas on the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program in academic year 2016-2017. The list recognizes the institutions that made international study and internships more accessible and inclusive for the highest number of American students of all backgrounds through the Gilman Program.

The State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, in collaboration with the Institute of International Education, compiles the list, organized by institution size and type.

Topping this year's list of four-year institutions sending the highest number of Gilman Scholars abroad are Spelman College (GA), Georgetown University (DC), and University of California, Berkeley (CA). Portland Community College (OR) topped the list of associate's colleges.

Top producing institutions are highlighted for their success in sending the most first-generation college students, racial or ethnic minority students, students with disabilities, and students studying in STEM fields. Institutions that sent the most Gilman Scholars to the largest number of different overseas destinations also receive recognition for their role in broadening geographical diversity in study abroad.

For a full list of the institutions by category, please visit the Gilman Scholarship website at www.GilmanScholarship.org.

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, with the support of the U.S. Congress, is reshaping study abroad to make it more accessible and inclusive for American students. The Gilman Program broadens the U.S. student population studying and interning abroad by providing scholarships to outstanding undergraduates who, due to financial constraints, might not otherwise participate. Since the program's establishment in 2001, over 1,300 U.S. institutions have sent more than 25,000 Gilman scholars to 145 countries

around the globe.

Interested media should contact the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at eca-press@state.gov.

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Press Releases: On the Chemical Attack in Douma

Press Statement
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC
April 7, 2018

We continue to closely follow disturbing reports on April 7 regarding another alleged chemical weapons attack, this time targeting a hospital in Douma, Syria. Reports from a number of contacts and medical personnel on the ground indicate a potentially high number of casualties, including among families hiding in shelters. These reports, if confirmed, are horrifying and demand an immediate response by the international community.

The United States continues to use all efforts available to hold those who use chemical weapons, in Syria and otherwise, accountable. The regime's history of using chemical weapons against its own people is not in dispute, and in fact nearly one year ago on April 4, 2017, Assad's forces conducted a sarin gas attack on Khan Sheikhoun, which killed approximately 100 Syrians.

The Assad regime and its backers must be held accountable and any further attacks prevented immediately. Russia, with its unwavering support for the regime, ultimately bears responsibility for these brutal attacks, targeting

of countless civilians, and the suffocation of Syria's most vulnerable communities with chemical weapons. By shielding its ally Syria, Russia has breached its commitments to the United Nations as a framework guarantor. It has betrayed the Chemical Weapons Convention and UN Security Council Resolution 2118. Russia's protection of the Assad regime and failure to stop the use of chemical weapons in Syria calls into question its commitment to resolving the overall crisis and to larger non-proliferation priorities.

The United States calls on Russia to end this unmitigated support immediately and work with the international community to prevent further, barbaric chemical weapons attacks.

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Press Releases: Commemoration of the 24th Anniversary of the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda

Press Statement
John J. Sullivan

Acting Secretary of State

Washington, DC
April 7, 2018

We stand today with the people of Rwanda in commemorating the 1994 genocide during which more than 800,000 men, women, and children were brutally murdered. On this solemn occasion, we remember those who lost their lives and honor the courage of those who risked their lives to save others.

The United States values its strong partnership with Rwanda, and we are

inspired by the remarkable progress that Rwanda has made in rebuilding since 1994. We are proud to support Rwanda as it continues to fight impunity for atrocities, lift millions of its people out of poverty, and build a peaceful and prosperous future for its citizens.

We also honor the contributions of Rwandans such as Godelieve Mukasarasi, recipient of the Department's 2018 International Woman of Courage Award, who have dedicated their lives to fighting for a culture of peace and non-violence in Rwanda. We are inspired by their bravery and dedication to justice and reconciliation.

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[Press Releases: On Panama's Support for Venezuelan Democracy](#)

Press Statement
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC
April 6, 2018

The United States congratulates Panama for its vigorous defense of democracy and human rights and for promoting stability in the hemisphere.

We applaud Panama's March 27 announcement that it will tighten financial oversight of 55 Venezuelans and 16 Venezuelan entities, and support other efforts in the region to fight the abuse of financial systems by corrupt actors.

The United States urges others in the hemisphere to stand with Panama and to take action in support of the Venezuelan people and their right to have their

voices heard in free, fair, and transparent elections.

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Press Releases: Thirty Years of Enhanced Strategic Security Through the Nuclear Risk Reduction Center

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
April 6, 2018

The U.S. Department of State commemorates the 30th Anniversary of the creation of the Nuclear Risk Reduction Center (NRRC). Established in 1987 with the purpose of opening a communications channel to the USSR to reduce the risk of nuclear conflict, today the U.S. NRRC exchanges thousands of time-sensitive notifications a year with foreign counterparts that cover nuclear, conventional, chemical, and cyber issues.

Housed at the Department of State in Washington, D.C., the NRRC operates twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week in 6 different languages (English, Italian, Russian, German, French, and Spanish), and is equipped with secure and private lines of direct communication. The NRRC is a key resource for the promotion of transparency and stability that enhances confidence and directly contributes to our national security interests.

As we meet the security challenges of the 21st century and seek to advance U.S., allied, and partner security, we will continue to support future arms control measures that are verifiable and enforceable and explore new ways at strengthening modern confidence building through technical and innovative

means.

For further information, visit <https://www.state.gov/t/avc/nrrc/>

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