

Katherine Mateo



Katherine Mateo is a Benjamin Franklin Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania where she is completing an honors degree in political science. She spent a semester in Washington, D.C. working in the United States Mission to the United Nations at the State Department. In this role, she conducted legislative research and investigated the global crackdown on civil society. Katherine is the Founder and Program Director of Global Youth United, a Philadelphia-based nonprofit that teaches youth the entrepreneurial skills necessary to create change. Students of the GYU Curriculum have organized around budgetary issues in public education through legislative lobbying, independent research, and by leveraging the power of media. Other students have worked to expand housing options for homeless U.S. veterans. At Penn, Katherine advocated for increased faculty diversity to university administrators and the creation of resources for first-generation/low-income students as the Vice Chair of the Latin@ Coalition and Executive Member of a broader diversity coalition called the 5B. Katherine is the 2015 recipient of the Sol Feinstone Award, the James Brister Society Student Leadership Award, and the Abraham D. Cohn Award. After graduation, she will be traveling to Paris and The Hague as a Humanity in Action Fellow.

CAPSTONE PROJECT

“Global Youth United: Facilitating Entrepreneurial Social Change in Philadelphia Public Schools”

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Mary Summers, School of Arts and Sciences, Political Science Department

Global Youth United (GYU) is a curriculum-based program which partners Philadelphia high school students with University of Pennsylvania mentors to develop the skills necessary to create social change. In order to explain the development and impact of GYU, this paper first discusses a set of skills known as 21st century skills and the theory of problem-based learning. Then, the paper details the GYU curriculum and program. Afterwards, the paper situates the GYU program and curriculum within the theories described. In order to assess the impact of the GYU program, the paper details the projects completed by GYU cohorts. Lastly, the paper takes up the question of GYU’s impact and potential for impact in the future.