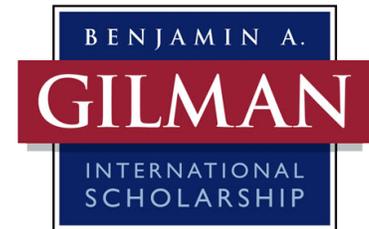


## JOSUE LOPEZ CALDERON, THAILAND, 2010

University of California, Los Angeles  
California



**D**uring my time at Thammasat University in Bangkok, Thailand, I dedicated myself as a hard working student and enjoyed exploring the food, land and culture.

While at Thammasat, I took six fantastic classes over the span of six days per week. I also had the opportunity to participate in an English tutoring program called TU2U, where we worked with children ages 6-10 years old. In addition, I took an International Business Marketing Course and a Thai Cuisine course which gave me the opportunity to visit a local beverage bottling factory and to

cook in the Bolan Restaurant, which was owned by my professor.

Today, my experience in Thailand has motivated me to create triangulation opportunities by building partnerships between the U.S., Latin America and Asia. I believe there are great untapped synergies between the U.S. Hispanic diaspora and regions such as Asia and the Middle East. As a result, I not only aspire to cultivate those relationships, but to encourage all U.S. diasporas to create triangulation opportunities between the U.S., their country of origin and another region, because our greatest asset is the power of our diversity.

I am very fortunate to have served our country during one of the most challenging economic periods in our history. I worked for the President's Economic Recovery Advisory Board at the U.S. Treasury Department, the Presidential Personnel Office at the White House and for the

Treasury Department Recreation Association. Additionally, I have become a member of the National Press Club and an entrepreneur. I am very thankful to the Gilman Scholarship and the University of California Education Abroad Programs office for assisting me to study abroad in Thailand. My study abroad experience helped me stand out in my job search as a recent graduate, and my first job out of college has opened doors for the rest of my career endeavors.

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### FOLLOW-ON SERVICE PROJECT

I had a feeling I was not the only first-generation college student who did not know about the Gilman Scholarship and other international education opportunities. Therefore, my Follow-on Service Project, focused on reaching student groups underrepresented in

education abroad through a two-part PowerPoint presentation. I presented to student groups, such as the Latino Business Student Association, in order to spread the word about how they could study abroad with the Gilman Scholarship.

In my first presentation, the meetings were more informational and included photos of Thailand. In my second presentation, I gave in-depth information on websites, who to contact at the university and important application deadlines.