

Just under seven years ago, I was a 19-year old sophomore studying agricultural business at Fresno State. I had no idea about the opportunities available to me but I knew two things – I wanted to work in agriculture and I wanted to work overseas. However, I could never have imagined the dramatic life shift and amazing journey this has led to. Today, I not only work in agriculture through USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, I have been accepted into its Foreign Service track. I expect to be posted overseas as an agricultural attaché in 2016 or 2017.

Aside from also previously interning with FAS, I have also interned with the Farm Service Agency, Rural Development, Agricultural Marketing Service, and the Animal, Plant and Health Inspection Service. At the time, I felt that these internships would be a small stepping stone towards those previously mentioned goals. My work with USDA has given me the honor to represent U.S. agriculture overseas and has taken me to places such as Mexico, Guatemala, Brazil, and United Arab Emirates.

I have come to truly understand USDA's role as the "People's Department" and our commitment towards America's farmers and rural communities. More personally, the USDA has come to represent my career aspirations and dreams through all the supervisors that I have encountered throughout my experiences. I cannot thank enough USDA-HSI Roberto Gonzalez Jr. who initially encouraged me to take advantage of USDA's opportunities. I can only imagine the amazing experiences to come as I move forward with career with USDA.

