

WIT-NC Scholarship Essay, Career Goals and Aspirations

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As the child of immigrants, I have always had an implicit understanding of international development. At least twice a year, my family would send a barrel filled with money, clothes, food, and other non-perishable items to our relatives in Guyana. In return, our relatives would send their children to North America to continue their education or find work to send money home. This “remittance culture” is a common source of income for many developing countries. It is also a very good example of how different perspectives, resources, and methods can be applied towards the same goal – enhancing the economic well being of others. Similarly, I believe an in-depth understanding of international business, politics and culture is integral to addressing the challenges associated with an increasingly global economy. As a student of international policy with a focus on trade at the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS), I believe that trade can be an effective tool for advancing economic development.

During my time at MIIS, my research focus has been on Chinese trade and investment policy and their impact on global institutions and developing countries. Specifically, I have written on the political and social implications of Chinese investment in resource-rich Africa. I am also on a research team led by MIIS Dean Yuwei Shi and ECOLOGIA, a non-profit organization that focuses on sustainable development, to examine the motivations and resources for corporate social responsibility in China. As a result of my research interests and performance, I have had the opportunity to work with Ambassador Alan Wm. Wolff as his research assistant over the past year. Under his guidance, I have worked on projects that examine China’s integration into the World Trade Organization (WTO), its participation in the Doha Development Round, as well as its growing economic relationship with Latin America.

My commitment to trade and development ventures beyond my coursework and research. I have an active role in creating opportunities for the community to be involved in international development. Currently, I am co-president of the MIIS International Trade Club, which hosted a conference last year that brought executives together from organizations such as the US International Trade Commission (USITC) and Overseas

Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) to discuss the global trends shaping international policy, business innovation, and social ventures in emerging economies. This spring, I will intern at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), whose mission is to support domestic and international policies that enable sustainable development through technical assistance, research, and consensus building.

Looking forward, I will continue to seek opportunities that will transfer my skills as a researcher, advisor, trainer, and manager in the economic advancement of developing countries. Like WIT-NC, I believe that I can be a resource for educating the community on international trade issues and how they will impact and influence their economic development.