

If you would not be forgotten, as soon as you are dead and rotten, either write things worth reading, or do things worth the writing." ~ B. Franklin

Ben Franklin is an inspiration not only as the statesman, Founding Father and diplomat, but as a visionary. The Ben Franklin Scholarship means honoring a man who served his country with purpose and integrity. As an honored recipient, I would attempt to follow in the footsteps of this great man and give back to my country to combat the current, emerging and evolving security challenges that threaten U.S. peace and prosperity. The money would help subsidize the cost of my graduate education. As I aspire to a career in government service, I feel as though there are endless opportunities to utilize my Arabic (and maybe even my German or pick up a few more languages along the way), gain regional expertise on the Middle East and learn the fundamental tradecraft of intelligence to prepare me for a career in the National Security field. At this point in my life, I do not know for certain where I will end up. I look forward to making a difference and learning about and writing on things that matter.

Ben Franklin provided a rubric for personal integrity and leadership with his 13 Virtues. [Temperance, silence, order, resolution, frugality, industry, justice, sincerity, moderation, cleanliness, tranquility, chastity, humility] His words serve as an inspiration and I will carry them with me inspire me to serve my country and find my path to make a difference. As a Lint Center scholarship recipient, I will do my best to continue to live with integrity, patriotism and passion. Furthermore, working with a cadre of alumni, government professionals, mentors, the distinguished Board of the Lint Center, and colleagues, the Lint Center facilitates collaboration with the leaders and students of today, in preparation as the strategists, analysts, officers, agents, and leaders of tomorrow. I would be honored, humbled and simply lucky to learn from their vast insights.

Academically, professionally, and athletically, I have a privilege to lead in a variety of ways. My time spent in Germany as a Congress-Bundestag scholarship recipient exemplifies my ability to adapt, learn and lead in an unfamiliar setting. The opportunity to be a "youth ambassador" for one year broadened my cultural awareness, established language fluency [German], and prompted a journey of self-discovery. My passion to serve my country was exacerbated by this experience. During my undergraduate studies, I exhibited academic excellence graduating cum laude and representing my university at the Air Force Academy Assembly while balancing varsity athletic pursuits. In graduate school I continue on the path towards academic excellence. Professionally, I have acquired invaluable skills such as negotiation, business analysis, multi-tasking, delegation, immediate action, leadership and teamwork in a prior career as a retail manager. My high energy personality is rejuvenated from interaction with others. My out-going nature craves new adventures from rock climbing to playing paint ball to sky diving. As a former NCAA Division I athlete, I know value of perseverance, humility, balance, and goal setting both on and off the court. I am a quick study with a passion for government service. I am not someone to shy away from confrontation or shrink from a challenge. I am driven to serve my country where my talents are utilized, my potential is continually cultivated, and my identity is defined. Each pursuit in life has reinforced the basic strength I acquired from my family who created my foundation of cultural awareness, vigor and ken. My past personal, professional and academic success exemplifies my future success.

Like Mr. Franklin and the esteemed members of the Lint Center, I plan to capitalize on the vast opportunities available for someone with drive and ambition. Currently, I am in the clearance process for a highly coveted summer internship with a government agency. Moreover, I look forward to operating in the world's new security environment and striving to help the U.S. meet its challenges as a proud Lint Center scholarship recipient and future member of the National Security community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my qualifications for the Ben Franklin Scholarship.

I request this Essay to be published on the Lint Center for National Security Studies, Inc website with my name published.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerrie A. Kurtz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'K' and a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the 'z'.

03/05/2010

Kerrie A. Kurtz

03/05/2010