

# KALIN WERNER

## **Q: Describe your experience/involvement in GlobeMed.**

I found GlobeMed while I was studying abroad in Argentina. It was my junior year of college and I had been searching for an outlet for my interests in health care. I had just begun a minor in public health around the same time and felt like after many years, I had finally discovered my niche. At my first meeting, I remember how quickly everyone eagerly accepted me and how we had a 2 hour discussion — it was one of the more formative moments that drove me towards work involving social justice. I often felt like I struck gold both in finding GlobeMed and my personal experiences in the club, but I felt even luckier when I discovered I was never the only member that felt that way that way. Only 6 months into my experience I was able to visit our partner organization, The Nwoya Youth Center in Anaka, Uganda and drive our fundraising initiatives for the year forward. Aside from being a defining point of my undergraduate education and experience, GlobeMed has remained an essential part of my development and growth to this day. The community is my outlet and continues to challenge me far past my time as a staff member. I look to the alumni, current chapter members and staff for inspiration and love being able to collaborate on projects often.

## **Q: What are some of the main takeaways, or lessons, you learned from GlobeMed?**

GlobeMed gave me the ability to see the work of public health through a lens of social justice. And to ask questions — a lot of questions. During my GROW internship I learned that the work is rarely easy or simple to become comfortable with the degree of complexity that comes with working to solve huge issues such as health and justice — and of course more practical lessons



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of developing an M.O.U, project implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and partnership development. GlobeMed also taught me it is normal to ask questions, seek solutions, and be human in your work. We're never expected to know it all but we're expected to go into our work with an open mind and heart. We're expected to invite discussion, to hear a voice other than our own, and to synthesize that into an understanding that will contribute to meaningful, impactful work.

**Q: What are you doing now? (careers/goals)**

I'm currently a Global Health Corps Fellow in Lusaka working as a Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Officer at Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia. My day centers around the practical work of ensuring sexual and reproductive health services are available to all. From this work I've become interested in a career focused on strengthening health systems. I hope to continue to work in sexual and reproductive health but I'm looking forward to returning to school for a Masters within the next few years.

**Q: Did your time in GlobeMed prepare you for your current career/goals? How?**

Absolutely. In almost every work situation since graduating I've really leaned into the lessons of solidarity and humility in work. These pillars have prepared me for the difficulties and learning opportunities that global health sometimes presents. Even more so I learned to deeply appreciate reflection on the process and effect of development. To really be sure to work with intention. I'm often reminded of the founders story where an organization tells Victor "you're the donor, you tell me what to do." Working to change that mentality and implementation of work often drives me.

**Q: How has your experience in GlobeMed shaped you as a leader?**

I think one of the most impressive parts of GlobeMed is that it is a **student** run non-profit. So all the work has real impact and effect. I think that really awakens responsibility, drive and vision in staff members. I was, and still am, honored to have gotten to serve the chapter both as a representative on the ground (GROW intern), campaigns coordinator, and staff member. Most importantly I think my experience in GlobeMed taught me that leadership doesn't mean barking instructions and always having the answers. It often means listening. While I *know* all the GlobeMed members are strong leaders, what I find most impressive is that they are also especially skilled collaborators-- and that translates directly into impressive leadership in the field.

**Q: What role do you think GlobeMed partners and alumni have or will have in global health in the future?**

In my opinion the GlobeMed partner model is THE future of development and health. The alumni and partners are total system shifters. As individuals with a solid background and training in these areas, alumni will be on the forefront of this work. I think we're here to redefine a system that is flawed and also ready for change. There's a reason why many years after graduating I was and still am drawn to attend Summit after Summit and Alumni Homecoming events. It's the reason I still chat with so many alumni, many from universities I didn't attend, on a weekly and sometimes daily basis. They're my brain fuel, the group that challenges me to a level of awareness I would not be able to reach alone. I often gush about them but both partners and alumni are some of the most thoughtful health professionals I know and I can't imagine my professional work or personal development without them.