

# TADELECH MENGESHA

**Q: Describe your experience and involvement in GlobeMed.**

**A:** I was involved in GlobeMed from freshman year to senior year. Their mission statement intrigued me and it was something that I thought I wanted to get involved with. From there it just became more and more a part of my college experience. I really enjoyed my first year being a member, and being able to see the way the mission worked, and how it's pretty unique from other organizations on campus. From there I just started to get more and more involved because I was passionate about what GlobeMed was doing, both in our chapter and in the larger network. My work ranged from working on World Day of Social Justice, to being a Global Health U chair, to being Co-President my senior year.

It was just a really integral part of my college experience. I loved being a part of the GlobeMed chapter at Northwestern and being able to connect with people in the other chapters as well.

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

**A:** There are probably three main ones. GlobeMed really taught me what it means to be a young leader, and what it means to really care about these issues. And not only to care, but to actually do something about them.

Along with that, another big takeaway was the power of youth. GlobeMed proves that you can get started on this work now, and get really involved in the global health equity movement that is going on today. As someone who was naïve but really wanted to do something, GlobeMed was able to make me into a leader and someone who is knowledgeable about these issues.



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And thirdly, GlobeMed really taught me to be intentional. Just wanting to help people and do good work is not nearly enough. You have to be really intentional about what you want to do, what you are doing, and how you are making an impact in your chapter and with your partner so that it can be positive and lasting. Together, all these people are trying to make you an intentional difference-maker, and make sure that what you do is good. Especially being Co-President, I learned that it isn't enough just to want to do good, but you have to be really intentional to do good work.

**Q: What are you doing now?**

**A:** I'm getting my Masters in Public Policy. A big reason why I did that is because I felt as though I really developed myself in college, and really understood what I wanted to do. This is the next step to gain the skills and tools to go out in the real world and do what I want to do. I'm very interested in work surrounding inequality, specifically in urban settings. Such as, "How can cities make urban policy more equitable to all their residents?" So I want to work for some type of city interest agency, or work at a non-profit firm that works in cities to make sure that they do better work especially with poor people's housing and health.

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

**A:** Yeah absolutely. One - I think just being around passionate people who have the same idea of what they want the world to look like. The GlobeMed community is something that was really important to me - just being able to talk to people really shaped my perspective on what I wanted to do, and what I wanted to be in the world around me. Second, the leadership development I got from GlobeMed was really great. Having to make mistakes and learn from those mistakes quickly, and having those supportive people from National Office really refined the way I needed to work on my strengths and work on my weaknesses. Even though I am now more focused on US poverty, I think GlobeMed's focus on global health equity across all populations really cemented my passion. It made me realize that this is what I wanted to do, and that this is what I wanted my future work to be in regardless of where I did it.

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

**A:** I think for GlobeMed alumni, it is really a chance for this group of people who are spread across the country and even across the world to keep passing the baton, and keep getting younger and younger generations interested in and passionate about these issues. Whether that's through mentorship, working with GlobeMed in different ways, or working at companies where you inspire young people to work on global health equity issues.