



Ian Terry Tchelibou

2015 Scholarship Recipient

Ian's mission statement is "to believe in yourself at all costs . . . if you do not believe in yourself there is not much you can accomplish in life. Everything starts within you."



Ian Terry Tchelibou, originally from Cameroon, moved to the United States with his family when he was in high school. Both his parents earned doctorate degrees, and they emphasized the importance of education in the household for Ian and his siblings. Going to college and earning a degree was never in question.

Ian moved to DC in 2014 and attended Cardozo High School. Ian faced cultural and language barriers which he overcame with determination and hard work. Through his participation in the track and field team as well as the soccer team at his high school, he began to develop relationships. All these experiences helped Ian adjust, make friends, and integrate into his new life.

Ian learned about the Economic Club scholarship through his participation in the Listo Rapido high school program dedicated to helping students get into college. In his search for scholarships, he applied to the Economic Club and was excited when he found out he was one of his school's winners. Along with the financial support, Ian eagerly embraced many of the opportunities offered to help him learn and grow. He attended the Economic Club's summer seminars, including Accenture's networking event, as well as other programming offered by the Economic Club throughout his college years that, as he recalls, "helped me practice my networking skills and made me comfortable being in a professional environment, interacting with new people." It was through connections at the Economic Club that Ian met member Theresa Fariello, Senior VP of Government Affairs for United Airlines. Because of discussions with Ms. Fariello, Ian expanded his career choices, including the possibility of attending law school and merging his interests in aviation and law. Ms. Fariello encouraged and inspired him to change his mind set to pursue his dreams.

As Ian entered his first year at the University of Delaware, he already knew which career path he would pursue. His uncle, a pilot for Qatar Airways, influenced his career interests from a young age. Ian, like his uncle, decided to pursue aviation. He studied Aviation Science which played directly into his career goal of becoming an airline pilot for United Airlines. The David M. Rubenstein Economic Club scholarship helped him pay for his tuition and lab fees while in college. Ian remarks that "it is one thing to want to go to college and it is another thing to be able to afford it."

After college, Ian was immediately employed as a flight instructor at Delaware State University. He is currently transitioning to a new job in Dallas with the hope of joining the United Airlines team in 2-3 years. In the coming years, Ian sees himself being a United Airlines pilot, taking on a leadership position within the company, and expanding his YouTube channel, "Travels with Ian," which captures his aviation journey. A long-term goal of Ian's is to continue creating content for his social media in a way that helps others. Additionally, he has written a book about how to win scholarships, mainly geared towards aviation because he recognizes the special challenges and difficulty in pursuing aviation as a career choice, particularly as a pilot. He is in the process of publishing his book with the hope of helping others join the aviation field because "it is my passion and I want to see as many people do it as possible."

Ian's advice for scholars: "The best networking practice is to be open and to reach out. That is one thing I used to lack, I used to be that person that did not want to reach out or ask for help. [It is important] to be open, be coachable, and do not hesitate to reach out."