



Takunda Rodney Ushe

*South Africa, Zimbabwe
Student at University of
Notre Dame*

Takunda is a vibrant GCI Ambassador and changemaker who hails from southern Africa and his upbringing alternated between South Africa and Zimbabwe. Takunda attended the African Leadership Academy from August 2014 to May 2016. It was at the Academy that he learned about Global Citizens Initiative and he instantly wanted to apply for its class of 2015. Takunda walked away from the Global Citizens Youth Summit with new friends from across the world and a concrete plan to expand his social enterprise back in South Africa called the Circle of Influence Projects Society (CIPS).

Takunda has a deep passion for young people to drive development in their communities. He currently serves as an African representative on Ashoka Youth Venture's Global Youth Council, co-creating an agenda with other leading changemakers in order to give young voices a space to collaborate, innovate, and deliver calls to action across religious, ethnic, and national lines. Additionally, he is a founding member of Future Africa, an organization which aims to enable long-term economic and political development in Africa. His specific role as Director of the Future Africa Fellowship allows him to be at the forefront of connecting emerging, talented young professionals across Africa to mentors and like-minded peers. In 2014, Takunda was one of the twenty-eight teenagers from around the world who were recognized as "Global Teen Leaders" by the We Are Family Foundation, which was founded by guitarist Nile Rodgers. His work has been featured in local news outlets including the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) and eNews Channel Africa (ENCA).

In 2016, Takunda joined the University of Notre Dame as a Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar. There, he has been carrying out research on the role of natural resource management in Africa's quest to prosperity. He is aiming to write a senior thesis comprising of a set of recommendations of how the extractive industry could achieve more efficiency as a development vehicle on the continent. He is pursuing a double major in Data Analytics and Political Science. Takunda is fluent in four languages and enjoys rugby as a pastime.

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