

**Mary “Trina” Bolton-Short Background**

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Short version:

In her professional role as a program officer at the U.S. Department of State’s Sports Diplomacy Division in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Trina works with U.S. Embassies and other bureaus to manage public diplomacy programs and sports exchanges for delegations from every corner of the world. Within her portfolio, the U.S. Department of State’s Empowering Women and Girls through Sports Initiative, the flagship espnW Global Sports Mentoring Program, and Sports and Sustainability Initiative have emerged as her key areas of focus. Overall, the Sports Diplomacy office taps into the power of sports to increase dialogue and cultural connectivity between people around the world—with the goal to promote U.S. foreign policymaking and positive social change worldwide.

In early 2016, Trina was on detail with the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement. She has used this experience to encourage use of sports as a platform to push the Department’s international drug demand reduction efforts. Trina is currently on a three-month rotation with the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations to address extremism in Sub Saharan Africa. From February to April of this year, she is working to bridge this bureau’s work with that of her sports diplomacy team.

Her inspiration to pursue a Master in Science & Public Policy Management from Carnegie Mellon’s Heinz College and current work position are rooted in her attraction to global policymaking. After earning a degree in international affairs at George Washington University, Trina grew her knowledge in this arena with a job of three years at the Brookings Institution. Before graduate school, she worked and traveled for Global Atlanta, a journalism firm covering international relations as they apply to Georgia. Originally from Atlanta, the 1996 Olympics and Paralympics first sparked her fascination in the power of mega-sporting events. She has since run with this interest through various projects related to her academic and work capacities.

Among her projects in this arena is her co-authorship of, "Bidding for Development: How the Olympic Bid Process Can Accelerate Transportation Development." In her academic capacity—separate from work at the U.S. Department of State—Trina teamed up with Carnegie Mellon colleagues on the publication to further explore the intersection between urban development, the IOC bid process, and the resulting legacies experienced by bid city losers.