



## **23rd Annual Youth Legislative Training Conference—2017**

*The 23rd Annual AACCS Youth Legislative Training Conference was held July 10–14, 2017, and gave students from Christian schools across the nation a hands-on experience of the workings of Washington, DC. The report below from the AACCS Legislative Office highlights the events of the week.*

### **AACCS Concludes Another Successful Youth Legislative Training Conference**

This past July, 38 students from 19 different states converged in Washington, D.C., for the Youth Legislative Training Conference (YLTC), a fun and intense week of training in public policy and leadership. Each year, AACCS hosts a group of high school juniors and seniors who take on the roles of real U.S. Senators, learn the rules of crafting and debating bills, and explore our nation’s capital. The week began with an introduction by Mr. Morton Blackwell, president of the Leadership Institute, which offers the facilities for the conference and students’ lodging. Other notable speakers included Tom Fitton, president of Judicial Watch, and Tim Goeglein, vice president of external relations for Focus on the Family. Students also benefited from a training session provided by the Leadership Institute. A special “Day on the Hill” gave students the opportunity to meet their own Congressmen and to hear Senator Mike Lee (UT) and Representative Louie Gohmert (TX) speak at an exclusive congressional briefing. The students also attended a special banquet where Congressman Jody Hice (GA) spoke as an honored guest. Beyond hearing excellent speakers, students enjoyed exploring the city. They attended a Marine Corps concert in front of the Iwo Jima Memorial and visited the National Archives to see the Declaration of Independence, Magna Carta, and Constitution. In the evenings, when the weather turned a little cooler, the group walked on a monuments tour to see the Washington Monument, World War II Memorial, and Lincoln Memorial. They also took a private after-hours tour of the U.S. Capitol building guided by Representative Jeff Duncan (SC). On the last day, the conference concluded at the Arlington National Cemetery, where four students were honored to take part in a special wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. From the morning devotionals held each day, to the speakers’ presentations, to the tours of D.C. landmarks, students were encouraged to recognize God’s guidance in their lives and in the United States government. It was truly a week of discovering new friends, learning new ideas, and gaining a new understanding of God’s providence in this great nation.

*By Hannah Dashiell. Hannah, AACCS Legislative Office 2017 summer intern*