



## 24th Annual Youth Legislative Training Conference—2018

*The 24<sup>th</sup> annual AACCS Youth Legislative Conference was held July 9–13, 2018, and gave students from Christian schools across the nation a hands-on experience of the workings of Washington, D.C.*

*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, the AACCS hosted 40 students from 19 different states at its Youth Legislative Training Conference (YLTC). This annual, week-long conference is designed to provide high school students with a more in-depth understanding of the way our government works and to give them an unforgettable experience in our nation's capital with students from other AACCS schools. Each student was given a Senator to role-play in a mock senate, in which he drafted bills, worked in committees, and debated and voted on legislation. Students who were active participants in the mock senate earned awards at the end of the week, such as Top Committee Member, Top Democrat, and Top Republican. In addition to the hands-on learning the students gained in the mock senate, they also heard several great speakers throughout the week. This year's speakers included AACCS Executive Director Dr. Jeff Walton, the Honorable William Wagner from Salt and Light Ministries, and Rachel Semmel (a former YLTC student) from the Leadership Institute. Students also attended a congressional briefing at the Capitol where they heard from Tim Goeglein, vice president of external relations for Focus on the Family, and Representative Matt Gaetz (FL), who encouraged the students to use their youth to make a difference in the political arena. During the awards banquet, the students had the privilege of hearing Major Mike Quigg of the U.S. Army speak. He challenged the students commit their lives to serving the Lord in whatever capacity He chooses. During their time at the Capitol, several students had the privilege of meeting with Congressmen, Senators, and staff members. Throughout the week, the students also enjoyed several opportunities to sight-see in D.C. They watched a Marine Corps marching band in front of the Lincoln Memorial, toured the Holocaust Museum, and took an evening tour of the monuments. As a special treat, the students were able to walk on the Speaker's Balcony and the floor of the House of Representatives during their after-hours tour of the Capitol with Congressman Barry Loudermilk (GA). The week ended with a visit to Arlington National Cemetery where four exceptional students had the privilege of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We are grateful that the Lord blessed us with a great week and a wonderful group of students and chaperones. We believe and pray that the students returned home with a better understanding of their government, a better knowledge of what it means to be a godly political influence, and memories and friends that they will never forget. To see pictures from the week, visit our Facebook page, [AACCS Legislative Office](#).

*By Hannah Dashiell, AACCS Legislative Assistant*