



AACS Youth Legislative Training Conference—2020

July 6–10, the AACCS hosted the 26th annual Youth Legislative Training Conference (YLTC) virtually, giving high school students from across the country a glimpse into politics in Washington, D.C., from a biblical worldview through five interactive online sessions.

The week started with a session from Mrs. Gail Nicholas, teacher and Social Studies Department Head at Bob Jones Academy in Greenville, SC. For many years, Mrs. Nicholas has led one of the most important events of YLTC, the mock senate. Mrs. Nicholas gave students an overview of the mock senate, describing the process students use as they role play senators to draft, debate, and vote on legislation.

Other interactive sessions featured conservative professionals in D.C., including Autumn Campbell, International Program Manager at the Leadership Institute and former AACCS intern. Miss Campbell presented on “Messaging, Social Media, and You,” a communications training geared toward students. In another session, WORLD journalist Harvest Prude held an engaging conversation with AACCS Legislative Director Jamison Coppola on “Navigating the Media with Biblical Discernment.” In her session, Miss Prude discussed Christian worldview and gave students valuable tips for viewing news with biblical discernment. In another session, three Hill staffers, who also were either YLTC alumni or former AACCS interns, shared with students what it is like to work for a U.S. Representative. Luke Ball, Communications Director for Rep. Matt Gaetz (FL); Peter Holland, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Doug Lamborn (CO); and Nicole Staley, Scheduler for Rep. Brian Babin (TX), encouraged the next generation of YLTC students to get involved in politics and courageously stand for their Christian faith.

To close the week, students enjoyed a special conversation with Rep. Vicky Hartzler (MO), who shared how the Lord led her to a life of public service. Rep. Hartzler encouraged students to seek God’s will for their lives and find ways to get involved in politics to influence their government. After a week of exciting sessions, we concluded the YLTC by presenting the new Winslow Terry Award. The Winslow Terry Award was given in honor of Winslow Terry, World War II veteran, Christian, patriot, and long-time supporter of the YLTC. To compete for the award, students wrote a one-page essay on one of several topics on the founding of America. This year’s winner wrote a strong defense of how the Declaration of Independence shows that America is foundationally a free and equal society. In future conferences, the Winslow Terry Award will encourage students to honor heroes of the past who played an indispensable role in forming our country.

Although YLTC 2020 was a vastly different experience from typical years, students eagerly participated in the online format. We pray that God will use each session to influence and guide students as they contemplate the next steps God has for them. AACCS is grateful to the many people who contributed to the program, and we extend our appreciation to our corporate sponsor, [WORLD News Group](#), for its support. The WORLD News Group offers news from a biblical perspective through several venues, including online articles, print magazines, daily podcasts, and a new daily video with news for teens—[World Watch](#). We cannot wait to plan next year’s event and welcome students back to the heart of American politics here in Washington, D.C.

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