



## AACS Youth Legislative Training Conference—2021

From July 5 to 9, the AACCS hosted the annual Youth Legislative Training Conference (YLTC). This year, 34 high school students from 20 states had the opportunity to experience the political workings of Washington, D.C., from a biblical perspective. During the week-long conference, the attendees participated in a mock senate, spent a day on Capitol Hill meeting with the staff of Congressmen and Senators, heard from conservative leaders, and toured several historical sites in our nation's capital. These activities were designed to give the students a greater understanding of our government and an appreciation of the freedoms we enjoy.

During the mock senate, each participant role-played a current Senator and was assigned to one of four committees. In committee meetings, participants drafted legislation on domestic and foreign policy issues, and at the end of the week, the students debated and voted on the bills they created. The mock senate provided the students with some first-hand experience of the Senate's legislative process.

The conference also allowed the teens to hear from a range of speakers, including Representatives Greg Steube (FL) and Virginia Foxx (NC). Senator Ted Cruz (TX) also made a video addressing the students. Other speakers included Timothy Goeglein, Vice President for External Relations at Focus on the Family; Jim Neill, Policy Advisor for Senate Republican Majority Leader Mitch McConnell; Rachel Semmel, Director of Communications and Fellow at the Center for Renewing America; and Dr. Sohan Dasgupta, former Deputy General Counsel of Homeland Security and Special Counsel at the US Department of Education. Speakers from the Leadership Institute also came to address the students, including Cathy Graham, Executive Assistant to the President of the Leadership Institute; Amanda Spiers, Regional Field Coordinator; and Kirsten Holmberg, Programs Coordinator.

A highlight of the week was a panel of Hill staffers: Luke Ball, Nicole White, and Peter Holland. All three of these staffers were either YLTC alumni or former AACCS interns who pointed to the YLTC as the event the Lord used to direct them into their current careers in the political world. The students enjoyed hearing from the panel, asking them questions about working on the Hill, and chatting with them afterward.

Throughout the week, the students enjoyed visiting George Washington's Mt. Vernon and participating in a tour of the Lincoln, Jefferson, Vietnam, and World War II memorials. The week culminated with a visit to Arlington National Cemetery where four of the students who excelled throughout the week represented AACCS in laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

We pray that God will use the unique experiences and lessons from this amazing week to influence and guide their lives. The AACCS is grateful to the many people who contributed to the program, providing financial support for student scholarships. For pictures of the week, please visit our [Facebook page](#) (American Association of Christian Schools or @AACCSeducates).