

Trevor Owens, SC - 2015

As I've taken time to collect my thoughts on the greatest week of my life, I am mostly incoherent due to the fact that it's so hard to describe such an amazing week in mere words. The physical and emotional aspects of Washington Week 2015 put an imprint on my heart and opened up numerous doors and opportunities I couldn't even fathom before. The numerous upstanding officials I met, including the president, gave such inspiring words to call forth the future of America to action, and inspire us all to "Dream Big" in the words of my very own senator, Senator Tim Scott.

From the elegant hotel dinners to the amazing views, this week was made spectacular for every single last delegate by the wonderful staff and the outstanding Hearst Foundations and family. Arranging utter joy for 104 young Americans is tedious work and requires the most meticulous and gentle of care, and we received the absolutely best from each member of this wonderful program. I can always picture the loving smiles we get from the awesome staff and the Hearst family themselves. Having the chance to meet such wonderful people is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Of all the outstanding individuals I came across this week, I got a chance to meet my other 103 delegates who have some of the greatest minds I've ever had the chance to debate with. The pure genius I encountered from children my age has caused me to marvel as now, a flame has sparked in my heart, to unite these very youth together, to ensure we achieve greatness. We are the future of this great country and this week has taught us to rise to our calling. The lasting friendships I have made are immeasurable, and I can only thank the Hearst Foundations for making this possible.

This thrilling week has left me speechless at most moments in vain attempts to describe its pure awesomeness. As life goes on, I will look to this week for inspiration to carry on strong in my city, my state, and my country. As we have numerous delegate meet ups already planned, I hope to achieve my full potential as an official alumni of the United States Senate Youth Program.