

Thomas Lubnau, WY – 2018

“Do you want to do this scholarship thing?” a question I was posed with in late 2016 by my mother as I sat sprawled on the couch. Naturally, I jumped at the opportunity for more money, little did I know “this scholarship thing” would be one of the most influential experiences of my life. I was no stranger to American government camps, scholarships, or even trips to Washington, D.C., however the professionalism and conscientious staff created a culture of learning and pride in government that could only be found in the United States Senate Youth Program’s Washington Week.

I arrived at the Gillette Campbell County Airport at four in the morning on March 2nd, one can imagine my surprise when I realized that I would be the only one traveling. Surprised, but comfortable I started my journey to Washington D.C., when Harriet and I landed we were greeted by one of our Military Mentors, who guided the delegation throughout the week from speaker, to esteemed government buildings, to solemn monuments. The speakers alone were enough to create an educational week, however it was not the explicit experiences that made the impactful week. It was the fellow delegates themselves that created the atmosphere of learning and understanding.

Truly, everyone sees things differently. When one is exposed to some of the nation’s best and brightest civic minds it creates a massive pool of intellect and perspective of which, no one’s toes touch the bottom. For any future delegate looking to challenge themselves, and grow their perspectives the United States Senate Youth Program offers the chance to prepare themselves for post-secondary education life financially and academically.