

Ian Seal, TN – 2015

To begin with, I just want to say how grateful I am for this experience. Going through the application process, I had no idea that I was about to be selected for one of the most incredible events of my life. Nothing that I had read or heard about the program truly prepared me for it, and I was amazed at how you stop worrying about only getting five hours of sleep every night when you are able to meet and hear from so many different leaders of our country.

To me, the events were mostly divided into two categories; the once-in-a-lifetime meetings, and the mind opening informative events. Both had their advantages, and one is not better than the other. Of the former, I would have to say that meeting President Obama was incredible, as so few people can actually say they've experienced that. However, I also really enjoyed meeting my senators. To meet two people who have had such a large impact on the state in which you live is incredible, and putting a person behind the face really changes your opinion about who is representing you in Washington.

I would have to say that one of the best informative events was hearing from Senator Manchin. Hearing his story of coming from very little to being a strong force in both state and national politics was incredibly inspiring, and it was good to know that there are people like him working to make our country a better place. Washington Week will be one of those events that I will look back on for the rest of my life and desire to be taken back to.