

Zoe Crisp, WY – 2021

Washington Week was a one-of-a-kind experience. As a delegate I was able to meet multiple figures that are considered valuable to our government. The speakers that impacted me in the most meaningful way were Gina McCarthy, Anthony Fauci, Tammy Baldwin and Norah O'Donnell. My favorite event was being able to learn about the Supreme Court and meet with justices who have worked on the Supreme Court. This program taught me multiple things about the profession that I am interested in which is law, specifically criminal justice and victim work. I was also able to see the two political parties working together which was a big eye opener for me.

Each speaker listed above brought a new type of energy and engagement to the program. All of them were approachable and easy to talk to. I felt as if that was very important in order to resonate with your audience. The speaker that I found had the most meaningful message was Norah O'Donnell. She gave advice to us as if we were her just normal friends and she had no hesitation when it came to talking about the hardships in her job. Both these contrasting ideas made her speech engaging. Tammy Baldwin and Gina McCarthy were able to highlight all the great things that they do in their jobs and why they love it. It was truly amazing to see two people love what they do so much and are willing to express their political opinions proudly. This factor made the speeches fun to listen to but also informative. Lastly Anthony Fauci was brilliant. With how crazy our year has been with the pandemic he openly spoke about how hard it has been for him to speak publicly about COVID-19. Dr. Fauci mentioned that many people believe that he continuously changes his mind but he really has to report new discoveries and facts that come along with COVID-19. His speech felt sentimental and was easy to understand and listen to.

Throughout Washington Week all the events were very interesting. My favorite overall was the day we were learning about the Supreme Court and hearing from justices. Even though the two judges were not my overall favorite speakers I learned the most from them about the profession I want to go into. Judge Henry touched on multiple topics about lawyering that I had not known about which were very helpful.

Overall Washington Week was a life-changing experience for me. I learned from multiple parts of the government and was able to see from both political parties. Each keynote speaker gave a great speech and made an effort to answer every question thoughtfully.