

## **Leaders Learn Leadership**

Tory Clower and Claire Harris

Thirty-six delegates attended the YMCA Youth Governor's Conference in Washington D.C. from June 10<sup>th</sup> until the 15<sup>th</sup>. The conference was created in order for youth governors and other youth officials to learn about various leadership styles. Florida Youth Governor Brad Pough said that he learned about “servant leadership,” which is “learning to find the best qualities of your people and making them shine.” Virginia Youth Governor Marco Leung was impressed by the “fresh new look at leadership.”

Two of the most beneficial aspects of the conference, according to most governors, were the chance to meet with fellow governors and the opportunity to listen to guest speakers. Among these guest speakers were Judy Snyder from the Library of Congress; Fred Duval, a lawyer from Arizona; and many representatives from various governmental positions. New Jersey Youth Governor Dave Colaco said, “I never thought I'd meet any of these really important people. I was able to have intellectual conversations with them.”

Although the delegates worked very hard, they also played hard. The conference's ideal location in our Nation's Capital lent itself to numerous interesting expeditions. In addition to visiting the monument district of D.C., the delegates ate at a restaurant overlooking the White House, which was a favorite of Colaco. As for Pough, the Lincoln Memorial was awe-inspiring. He said that it was “much bigger than on the penny! And it wasn't made of copper, either!”

The conference is geared towards teaching governors to lead their state delegation by incorporating leadership activities with learning the differences between various conferences. “The main thing was relating [to] people. You're representing people so you have to know who they are and what their ideas are,” remarked Texas Youth Governor Dave Harris.