



**THE HENRY CLAY CENTER
FOR STATESMANSHIP**

What is the College Student Congress?

The College Student Congress gathers fifty rising college seniors, one from each state, together with lawmakers, academics, politicians, journalists, and business leaders to learn about the dynamics of public policy and public policy decision making through the lens of the legacy of Kentucky's greatest statesman and compromiser, Henry Clay. Carefully-chosen guest speakers engage with the students throughout their time, and students participate in an intensive curriculum and project designed by the University of Kentucky Martin School of Public Policy and Administration and the Henry Clay Center staff. Additionally, students have the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. with the College Student Congress to take what they've learned about public policy and see it in action in our nation's capital.



Each year's program invites students to focus on different dimensions of four unique policy challenges that are currently facing the nation. Previous topics have included such areas as healthcare, net neutrality, national security, immigration, transportation and national debt. Students self-identify and subdivide as leaning more or less towards conservative or liberal ideology on the four topics, and then proceed to create a partisan policy proposal for their given topic. This results in a conservative and liberal proposal for each of the topics. The challenge presented to participants is to then negotiate and cooperate their way through the week to reach a compromise, combining elements of their partisan proposals to present a single, bipartisan proposal on their topic.



Rising College Seniors (juniors during the 2018-2019 school year)



There is NO cost to apply for or attend the student congress



Hosted at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky, and Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia



Online Applications due by November 9, 2018

D.C. Internship Opportunities

The Henry Clay Center is dedicated to helping our College Student Congress attendees bridge the gap from their academic to professional lives. As a result, we are working to cultivate summer internship opportunities across government and the private sector in the Washington, D.C. area for interested participants.

“The biggest strength in this program lies in bringing together 50 students from so many different backgrounds. It challenges us to rethink how we make relationships and the notion that we can only be friends with those who hold the same opinions as ourselves.”
– 2018 Participant

What Makes the Student Congress Unique?

Throughout the congress, students will have the opportunity to be advised by PhD students and hear from experts in order to explore the depths of their unique topics. Students will be challenged to interact with peers who hold different beliefs than they do, to civilly and openly engage in a dialogue about their differences, to learn to listen to one another and, ultimately, to come together in the spirit of cooperation in order to achieve progress for the common good. All the while, students will be developing and honing their leadership, negotiation, communication and interpersonal skills.

Why Should Students Apply?

Alumni cite the College Student Congress as transformative in their outlook, setting many on paths of leadership and service. Our alumni have gone on to successful careers as lawyers, politicians, staffers in the US House and Senate, employees in state and federal government agencies, as well as careers in a variety of nonprofit and private sector corporations such as banks, energy firms, small businesses, Google and CNN, to name a few.

What are Some Program Highlights?

The student congress is filled with opportunities to learn from and interact with key players in policy-making, and some previous activities include:

- Visits to Microsoft, Council of State Governments, Departments of State and Transportation, Bipartisan Policy Center and more
- Private meetings with the Supreme Court Clerk, Senate Majority Leader and Secretary of Transportation
- Policy discussions with experts, academics, legislators, and Hill staffers



For More Information



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