



**THE HENRY CLAY CENTER
FOR STATESMANSHIP**

What is the College Student Congress?

The College Student Congress gathers fifty-one rising college seniors, one from each state and Washington, D.C., 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, criminal justice reform and the 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 2020-2021 school year)



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



Hosted at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, KY, and Marymount University in Washington, D.C.



Online Applications due by December 11, 2020

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 work to cultivate summer internship opportunities across government and the private sector in the Washington, D.C. area for interested participants.

"The whole congress taught me so much about seeing both sides of an issue. Having interactions with people from varying backgrounds helped me understand different viewpoints." – 2019 Participant

"This program is invigorating and brought me so many new friends and new experiences to learn from." – 2019 Participant

What Makes the Student Congress Unique?

At the student congress, it's all about the process. While students will have opportunities to develop tangible policy solutions and recommendations, we challenge participants to engage with the mechanisms by which these solutions are achieved. *Why do you hold the opinion that you do? How do you engage with someone who holds the opposite opinion? What are your areas of mutual interest?* Students will be challenged to interact with peers who hold different beliefs than they do, to civilly and openly engage in 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.

Why Should Students Apply?

Throughout the student congress, students will develop and hone their leadership, communication, negotiation and interpersonal skills, all while creating friendships and lasting bonds among the cohort of participants. Alumni cite the congress as transformative for their outlook and goals, setting many on paths of leadership and public service. Participants will have an unparalleled opportunity to research, develop, negotiate, debate and present solutions to current public policy issues with peers and experts in the field. They'll also have memorable opportunities to participate in unique events and network with professionals in Lexington, Kentucky and Washington, D.C. – all on full program scholarships!

What are Some Program Highlights?

The student congress is packed with academic, professional and social opportunities. Some previous activities include:

- Visits to Microsoft, Department of State, Council of State Governments, Bipartisan Policy Center, Congressional Country Club and more
- Private conversations with the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Senate Majority Leader and other Congressional and private sector policy makers
- Special dinners and receptions, tours of Kentucky distilleries, local sightseeing and more



For More Information



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