

Dear Dr. Gousse, Dr. Merisier, and Ms. Toussaint,

My name is Wildza Marcelin; I am one of the students who you helped to participate in Close-Up this year. I am so thankful and joyful for this experience.

On the first day that I got to Washington D.C., I started having fun by meeting new students from different countries; I learned different languages and different cultures. I also learned about women's rights and every student has a different way of treating women in their country. I also learned about human rights, the Bill of Rights, the three branches of government, and our immigration policy. There were students there from Mexico, China, Puerto Rico, Homestead, Nicaragua, Hawaii, Miami, Arizona, California, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Texas. There were such a lot of students that I learned how to make new friends. I started to communicate with them and I learned how to share ideas with them, especially with my roommates. I also learned about the government, how the Congress works, how bills are passed and how bills become laws. We learned how a case gets to the Supreme Court. I learned more about Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and so on. I visited Capitol Hill which was an awesome experience. I also visited the Senator's office, where we can go if we want to communicate with our senators. We went to Kendrick Meek's office in the House of Representatives. We also visited the Holocaust Memorial Museum, The World War II Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials and the Vietnam Wall. This entire trip was a wonderful experience for me and I learned a lot from it.

I don't know how I could be thankful to all of you that have given me opportunity to participate in Close-Up. I really enjoyed it. Thank you and may God bless you!

Sincerely,

Wildza Marcelin