Q1 What was the most valuable thing you learned?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0

#	Responses	Date
1	Time management, everything had a set time and place	4/10/2015 10:05 AM
2	How things operate in the political spectrum, the meeting with the chinese embassy, and the meeting with our representatives and senators.	3/31/2015 3:10 PM
3	Experiencing first hand how our government works and seeing that individual american opinions do matter or at least would like to be heard in DC.	3/24/2015 1:03 PM
4	How hard the staff workers work	3/23/2015 8:22 PM
5	How to get in touch with your congressmen and women	3/22/2015 11:26 AM
6	How interconnect all The issues were.	3/20/2015 12:11 PM
7	It was great to spend time meeting with the House and Senate Ag Committee to hear them discuss the information and rational used in determining the current Farm Bill Plan. Also, to hear the political information on current agricultural trade and trends	3/18/2015 2:35 PM
8	How relationships need to begin with the staff of our congress members. If we can get our idea across to the staffers, our congressman will be more likely to listen.	3/17/2015 10:29 AM
9	It is important to be prepared an anticipate the follow up questions you think they will ask.	3/16/2015 2:11 PM
10	The most valuable thing was making the contacts.....the one on one. Face recognition. Being brief but concise with your issues and to be flexible.	3/16/2015 1:21 PM
11	It was valuable to learn about the tremendous amount of time and effort that takes place from both lobbyists and legislators to get things accomplished.	3/16/2015 10:28 AM
12	The process of how everything actually worked. The logistics of it all is what I thoroughly enjoyed.	3/16/2015 10:28 AM
13	How legislative committees function in the big picture of Congress and House.	3/16/2015 8:12 AM
14	Contacts with Rouzer, Tillis and Burr's offices	3/13/2015 5:16 PM
15	Washington DC has a blend of historic tradition as well ever changing with renovation and changes in laws.	3/13/2015 3:35 PM
16	The most valuable item was the entire trip. Words cannot express how much I learned by visiting DC with this group. The access that we were given in comparison to previous DC visits was incomparable.	3/13/2015 2:54 PM
17	I think that the importance of legislative staff was the most valuable along with the impact that building a relationship with the staff can make. I think that it would be worthwhile for the leadership class to try to build those relationships prior to the visit in the next-go-round even more so than we did.	3/13/2015 11:16 AM
18	the entire legislative process	3/13/2015 11:14 AM
19	The most valuable thing I learned was the necessity of being able to tell your story accurately, but briefly.	3/13/2015 11:04 AM
20	That there is no need to be intimidated about being part of the federal legislative process.	3/12/2015 10:38 AM
21	One of the most valuable thing I learn is stepping up and asking questions. I never thought I would be able to meet with my senators and congressman/women in my entire life time and I did it with the legislative tour. Having the courage to push your fear aside and placing yourself in a different position to express your opinion was very valuable for me. It reinforce the idea that although they are elected officials, we are all alike. The tour has re-emphasis that communication is key to function in environment--they're very to the point and talk almost as if in sound bits.	3/9/2015 8:15 AM
22	How things work in Washington and just how valuable contacts, developing relationships and networking are.	3/6/2015 12:41 PM

23	The value of networking, and speaking with your elected representatives. The Senators and Representatives, along with their staff really took an interest in the stories we shared in regards to issues in NC, and also some of our personal stories from our own farms and businesses. Being in DC that week, I left feeling confident that our elected officials were doing there best to keep NC Agriculture on top, and propose the proper legislation to assist farmers in being more successful in their operations. Since being back at home, I have shared my experiences with some of my local boards and organizations about trying to schedule a trip to do the same and get more involved.	3/6/2015 10:50 AM
24	The most valuable thing I learned was how many people and how much work goes into something before it ever gets considered to be a bill much less a law. Also that everybody has a voice in DC!	3/5/2015 7:25 PM
25	Most valuable to me was the importance of leaning on your elected official(s) to make a difference. I heard many times from the staff, aids, lobby groups and elected officials that it is the personal stories that make the most impact. I felt much better about having a voice in the destiny of our country.	3/5/2015 12:30 PM
26	The Congressmen and Senators are very hard working people and sacrifice their time with family to do what they think is right. I also did not understand before what a wonderful partner China is to us since I deal with animals and not crops. That is good info to know!	3/5/2015 9:07 AM
27	That our senators and representatives do care, but they have to juggle everything else from a different perspective. If you are going to talk to them about an issue, make sure it is a pertinent issue, not a pipe dream. Staffers are your best friends. The face time we had with the senators and with the sen ag comm staff was invaluable.	3/5/2015 8:58 AM
28	The process it takes just the ear of our legislators. Being with NCTTFC group is why we had that time. I hope everyone appreciates and understands the privileged that was bestowed upon us by those who have paved the way for us in the previous years of this program.	3/4/2015 9:06 PM
29	I learned how hard it is to accomplish anything in Washington. I have a new appreciation for the process.	3/4/2015 9:02 PM
30	Don't be intimidated be yourself, know your facts and be respectful.	3/4/2015 8:11 PM

Q2 What was the most surprising thing you learned?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0

#	Responses	Date
1	The amount of young people working as staffers / running the country	4/10/2015 10:05 AM
2	The history about DC and the the Chinese embassy	3/31/2015 3:10 PM
3	How much senators, congressmen and government, in general, have on their plate. Also, how each of them took the time to meet with our class, which shows how important leadership groups, like ours, is to these members.	3/24/2015 1:03 PM
4	How little the staff gets paid up	3/23/2015 8:22 PM
5	How young the staffers are	3/22/2015 11:26 AM
6	How young and important the staffers are.	3/20/2015 12:11 PM
7	How things are truly connected, meaning agricultural trade with China being affected by other industries, for example Microsoft.	3/18/2015 2:35 PM
8	That there are approximately 10 staffers for every member of congress, plus additional staffers for each committee. That's a lot of tax payers money being spent.	3/17/2015 10:29 AM
9	How simple it was to get an appointment with my representative.	3/16/2015 2:11 PM
10	That some elected officials actually do care about your issues.	3/16/2015 1:21 PM
11	I was surprised to learn how much of the work is done by staff and aids.	3/16/2015 10:28 AM
12	People on these certain committees sometimes don't know one single thing about their committee. (Alma Adams)	3/16/2015 10:28 AM
13	How the Senate was in session, but no senators representing other than the presenter. Assumption is broadcast was being watched by aides.	3/16/2015 8:12 AM
14	All the 20-somethings that run the place.	3/13/2015 5:16 PM
15	The disregard for others speaking in congress.	3/13/2015 3:35 PM
16	I think the most surprising thing was that DC in a way is ran by recent college graduates. Its neat to see how they influence and assist in making decisions.	3/13/2015 2:54 PM
17	I was surprised at how knowledgeable my Representative in the House was about agriculture. I'm from an urban district, so I didn't expect that.	3/13/2015 11:16 AM
18	this country is run by staffers in their mid 20's.	3/13/2015 11:14 AM
19	The most surprising thing I learned was the fast paced work environment, but the slow process of actual legislation. These people put in long hours of non-stop meetings and running around. It amazed me at how crazy everyone's schedules were, but how slowly things actually happen.	3/13/2015 11:04 AM
20	How many groups are organized to lobby for specific components of agriculture and the amount of resources (human and financial) American Farm Bureau allocates to these efforts.	3/12/2015 10:38 AM
21	It amazes me how involved interns and liaisons are with the elected officials. They weren't joking when they said that interns really do run the city. One thing that it does re-emphasis for me is that it takes a team to do this kind of work and not just an individual.	3/9/2015 8:15 AM
22	How heavily our congressmen depend on their staff to keep them informed. Basically that a bunch of twenty-something year old people are who we rely on to get our issues addressed.	3/6/2015 12:41 PM
23	In regards to my groups Infrastructure issue, it was good to see that Congress was allocating more funding to assist the state in regards to upgrading ports, roads, and bridges that will allow NC AG to remain a top export. It was also good to see that our leaders: Drs. Brown & Collins are well respected among the Congressmen, and the NCTTFLDP is highly praised as well.	3/6/2015 10:50 AM

24	The fact that anyone can set up a meeting with their congretional people, whether it was directly or through their aids.	3/5/2015 7:25 PM
25	It was amazing to see how different DC is in person verses what is depicted on TV. Based on what you see on TV I expected to see a divide among the politicians based on party lines. It was clear that they had a stance on certain issues but I heard many of the elected officials state that they had to work together on issues in order to achieve progress.	3/5/2015 12:30 PM
26	The Congressmen and Senators are already aware of the issues of farmers. They know what needs to be done, but have so many road blocks to get there.	3/5/2015 9:07 AM
27	I didn't know much about Sen. Burr before we went. He was very impressive and I'm proud to have him represent NC.	3/5/2015 8:58 AM
28	That this country truly is ran but a bunch of young, underpaid, underfed interns. Without these guys I don't think Capitol Hill could function. Not even thinking about what is on a Congressman's plate but the schedule they must keep up with, all the people they have to know, if it weren't for these sharp young people there is no way it would run at all.	3/4/2015 9:06 PM
29	I was surprised how well versed the staffers and Senators were on Ag issues. We didn't present any new information to them. That was refreshing to see.	3/4/2015 9:02 PM
30	The thing I'm always amazed at is they really do want to hear what we have to say.	3/4/2015 8:11 PM

Q3 Were you disappointed in anything you learned?

Answered: 28 Skipped: 2

#	Responses	Date
1	Not a thing!	4/10/2015 10:05 AM
2	no	3/31/2015 3:10 PM
3	No	3/23/2015 8:22 PM
4	It is hard to get anything done in the legislature.	3/22/2015 11:26 AM
5	No	3/20/2015 12:11 PM
6	It was disappointing to know that if the farm bill is separated from the SNAP program, funding will decrease even more.	3/18/2015 2:35 PM
7	No	3/16/2015 2:11 PM
8	not really. I had a little warning before I got there.	3/16/2015 1:21 PM
9	It was disappointing to learn just how disconnected most of D.C. is from agricultural issues and needs.	3/16/2015 10:28 AM
10	I just saw a lot of waste in the system. With a little common sense I really think they could trim things back and make it less confusing,	3/16/2015 10:28 AM
11	Better understanding of how big congress is and difficulty in getting items through relative to different agenda items by members.	3/16/2015 8:12 AM
12	not this time	3/13/2015 5:16 PM
13	No. I knew what to expect for the most part.	3/13/2015 3:35 PM
14	Not necessarily. I did think it was interesting to see who went out of their way to visit with us and get to know us. I think I was more disappointed in those individuals who were not as appreciative to meet with us.	3/13/2015 2:54 PM
15	I was disappointed with the meeting that I had with the lobbying group that represents my ag industry...pork. The "Communications Director" was a HORRIBLE communicator and within the past month, 3 of the 4 lobbyist had left the organization. That scares me considering how big and smart the Animal Activist groups are.	3/13/2015 11:16 AM
16	this country is run by staffers in their mid 20's, who, I assume, have no other work related experience.	3/13/2015 11:14 AM
17	I was very impressed with the entire trip. There are so many important ag issues on the table and a long road ahead to get them where we want and need them. Most of our inquiries were of people that seem to be on our side and telling our stories.	3/13/2015 11:04 AM
18	No. Experience exceeded all expectations.	3/12/2015 10:38 AM
19	I love every single moment of the tour. It really has open me to new ideas and opinions. Although there were some opposing view, I thought it was a good learning experience rather than butting heads and being angry.	3/9/2015 8:15 AM
20	Not at all. I feel that next time I go I will be much better equipped to accomplish more and be more affective.	3/6/2015 12:41 PM
21	I would have liked some more time during the day to visit a few more museums, and sites while in town, but I know we were there mainly to conduct business, and learn about the legislative process.	3/6/2015 10:50 AM
22	No	3/5/2015 7:25 PM
23	This trip was more than I expected and found every piece of the trip valuable. I am so glad I had the amazing opportunity to see how things work in our nation.	3/5/2015 12:30 PM
24	It takes a long time and effort to get laws past. This can be a good thing for laws that are not good for the community, but is a bad thing for the things we need.	3/5/2015 9:07 AM

25	Bureaucracy in general is disappointing. Keeping up with the legislation since we left, it's disheartening to see them so divided. The Chinese embassy trip was a fabulous experience. That being said, you can see why it takes so much back and forth between countries to get anything accomplished. They presented a false front in my opinion to make their country look great.	3/5/2015 8:58 AM
26	More just confirming my disappointment in our congressional leaders. I was embarrassed for our whole country observing the behavior in the congressional chamber. When it took 5 announcements and at least 10 minutes to quite down the chamber after a vote. Complete disrespect. Then no one was left in the room to hear the speakers. I understand how busy these people are but I expect more out of our leaders.	3/4/2015 9:06 PM
27	No. I enjoyed searching for leadership skills in everyone we met and everywhere we visited.	3/4/2015 9:02 PM
28	The trip was great want to say thanks to our leadership for making it happen.	3/4/2015 8:11 PM

Q4 Other Comments:

Answered: 19 Skipped: 11

#	Responses	Date
1	I still talk about Arlington and the changing of the guard. What an amazing place to see.	4/10/2015 10:05 AM
2	2 weeks after our DC trip I went back with a commodity group. Learning my way around, and making those contacts really excelled my experience with the commodity group. The legislative arm of my commodity group hadn't made contact with one of the members of congress that sits on the house ag committee. Guess what.....her ag aid ate barbeque with us. I made that connection again and everything went smoothly.	3/16/2015 1:21 PM
3	Had a great time with everyone and though logistically everything was great. I appreciate all of the hard work everyone put in.	3/16/2015 10:28 AM
4	Trip to Arlington and Chinese Embassy gave good perspectives.	3/16/2015 8:12 AM
5	This was a great experience. I got to get behind the veil a little to see the wheels of government churning and, because of this program, got to spend significant amounts of time with my national legislators and their staff. What a great experience!	3/13/2015 5:16 PM
6	I think I accomplished something there. I have been contacted by 2 of the 3 politicians so far.	3/13/2015 3:35 PM
7	Many thanks to Dr. Collins, Blake, Linda, and Lanny for taking the group and setting up all the connections. I was so excited to come back and share all of the items with my coworkers, friends, and family. Thanks a million!	3/13/2015 2:54 PM
8	I thought this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It's not often that a little ol' gal from Raleigh gets to be a part of an event during which you can look over at the white house from the veranda of Longworth. The access that we had to our elected officials, along with the carefully planned event schedule were something that I don't take for granted. I know that it required a tremendous amount of effort and planning and I greatly appreciate the efforts of Dr. Brown, Dr. Collins, and especially Mrs. Linda Andrews!	3/13/2015 11:16 AM
9	Overall I really enjoyed the trip. The fact I was able to see and experience things I had never imagined would get to do, is priceless.	3/13/2015 11:14 AM
10	I hope others realize just how special this opportunity was - from the visit to the Chinese Embassy to having our Senators dedicate so much time to talking to us - this was an experience that I'll remember forever. Thank you!	3/12/2015 10:38 AM
11	I loved the food. Dinner was delicious as always. I did not have the time to visit some of the places in DC because I chose to visit with other congressman/women but it was still worthwhile. I thoroughly enjoy the experience.	3/9/2015 8:15 AM
12	The trip was a great learning experience and I am looking forward to visiting again if the opportunity arises.	3/6/2015 12:41 PM
13	The pig picking was a really big hit. It was nice to have all the staffers, from all over the nation, and hearing the personal stories they shared, and to see their interest in NC Agriculture.	3/6/2015 10:50 AM
14	Trip is a very good learning tool for the leadership program. Would recommend keeping this one in the program.	3/5/2015 7:25 PM
15	I did leave with the thought of “why does our nation’s business have to be so complex?”	3/5/2015 12:30 PM
16	This was the best trip I've ever had to Washington!! We had so many wonderful opportunities. I liked that the hotel was so close to Capitol Hill and we could walk there. The schedule was frustratingly changing, but now I understand the rushed and hurried environment of Washington. Thank you for arranging this experience for us! I am very grateful!!	3/5/2015 9:07 AM
17	I can see the reasoning behind the Arlington trip, and if you have never been to Arlington, it's a great experience. However, our leadership exercise turned into a walk in the cold and that's about it.	3/5/2015 8:58 AM
18	Very Grateful for the experience. It confirms that, at least at a national level, politics is not for me. It has prepared me to know how to approach our government's congressional branch, but I think I'll focus more on influencing local and state level branches.	3/4/2015 9:06 PM
19	I appreciate the effort it took to get our appointments with the Senators and the Chinese Embassy.	3/4/2015 9:02 PM