

2019 Students Inside Albany

Thomas Griffin, who graduated third in the class of 2019 at West Seneca West High School, plans to study psychology at SUNY Geneseo. Tom gave these remarks at our annual meeting on Saturday, June 1, 2019:

First off, I'd like to thank all of the League of Women Voters members and volunteers who made Students Inside Albany possible, especially the chaperones that ensured no one got lost in Albany! Through my participation in the conference I learned that anyone can make a difference and participate in their democracy. Whether it be through activism, being an elected official, or even just voting, the speakers we had showed us that every one of us can help do their part in shaping the legislation and policies of their community or state, and that it is imperative to the success of our democracy and our nation that we do. I also learned that our elected officials, whether they be local or state, are just like us: they have families, interests, and lives outside of politics and, therefore, any one of us could campaign and become one ourselves. Being an elected official isn't for a select few who somehow have the special capacity to hold office; that role is meant to be filled by any citizen willing to work hard to improve their community and state. Additionally, I had the opportunity to talk to my assemblyman about the TV show Game of Thrones for a full five minutes, which is something I never thought I'd be able to say. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity Students Inside Albany offered me to learn about state government and meet like-minded peers from all over New York State, and I would like to thank the League of Women Voters again for making this incredible conference possible.