



Take Two!

2ND ANNUAL WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



By: Mike Brode
National HOSA President-Elect

On Saturday, September 20, 2008, 73 HOSA state officers and 2 national officers from across the country gathered in our Nation's Capitol to network, strengthen their leadership skills, and share the message of HOSA. Student leaders and advisors from 26 states traveled from as far as California and Hawaii to participate in the four-day HOSA Washington Leadership Academy.

The opening day included an exciting address from former U.S. Surgeon General and current Chairman of the Johnson and Johnson Diabetes Institute, Dr. Kenneth Moritsugu. Immediately following Dr. Moritsugu's remarks, the leadership strengthening began with workshops on networking and communication skills.

After a good night's sleep, day two began with the "Quest for Leadership II" at the National Mall. The National Mall is an open-area national park in downtown Washington, D.C., between the Lincoln Memorial and the Capitol. HOSA leaders were able to learn about being the best leader they can be while experiencing some of the many beautiful and wondrous landmarks of historic Washington D.C.

Following an exciting and enlightening morning, participants spent the afternoon preparing themselves for Congressional meetings. We learned about legislative offices, our elected representatives, and ideas on how to leave a lasting, positive impression about HOSA with our members of Congress.

Day three included an informative presentation by the National PTA about our "Flu Busters" partnership, designed to fight the flu together. The afternoon included a special tour of the U.S. Capitol where some of our participants were even able to observe a live session of the U.S. House of Representatives. After the tour of the Capitol, we headed towards the White House to a reception in the Eisenhower Old Executive Office Building. During the reception, HOSA leaders had the opportunity to hear from many exciting guest speakers, including Rear Admiral Robert Williams, Acting Deputy Surgeon General, Captain Robert Tosatto, Director of the Medical Reserve Corps, and Captain Stephanie Martinson, a nurse with the White House Medical Unit.



Luis Baez, Dr. Kenneth Moritsugu and Mike Brode



HOSA leaders out on the National Mall in Washington D.C.



Rear Admiral Robert Williams, Acting Deputy Surgeon General, talks with HOSA leaders.

During the last day of the Academy participants were able to go on a special tour of the White House. Following the tour, participants headed to the Hill, where they were able to meet with the Representatives and Senators from their state to explain the significance of HOSA and HOSA impact on health care. Finally before heading home participants rounded off an amazing conference with a Congressional Luncheon with many guest speakers, including several Congressmen, Senators, Mr. David Sanders with Teva Pharmaceuticals, and Dr. Adam Clark with the Lance Armstrong Foundation.

North Carolina HOSA State Officers pose for a picture with Senator Richard Burr and Faye Cress, NC-HOSA State Advisor, at a reception in the Hart Senate Office Building.

