



Youth Career Connect Anson High School Students and Staff Visit Washington D.C.

Washington, D.C. We hear about it in the news continually, not always in a positive way. How does D.C. look and sound when teenagers absorb it from a student's perspective? Anson High YCC students would say that D.C. belonged to them for a few days during spring break, when history, culture, the past came alive as they toured D.C. together.

Seventy-one seniors in the YCC STEM Academy at AHS have worked tirelessly to earn academic and technical credits, credentials, employability skills, and career experience during their high school experience. During Spring break students were provided with the opportunity to see their careers and the economic integration of their careers in real-world settings in Washington, D.C.

The itinerary included three days of non-stop learning opportunities that highlighted YCC STEM careers; American history; and the integration of career majors with individual futures and the future of our great country. Leaving early on the morning of Sunday, April 17th, students embarked on Burke tour buses. Wasting no time at all, on Day 1 they visited Udvar Hazy Air and Space Museum, and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.

During Day 2 more historical stops allowed Anson students to combine the power of career choices with history, as they experienced the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial; the National Air & Space Museum; a tour of the U.S. Capitol and the White House photo stop. They ended Day 2 with a walking tour of the World War II, Lincoln, Vietnam and Korean War Memorials. Day 3 was packed as well, with a tram tour of Arlington National Cemetery and the Marine Corp Memorial depicting Iwo Jima before beginning the journey back to Anson County.

Students had many positive things to say about D.C. and their time together as the inaugural class for the YCC experience at Anson High School. Quick comments ranged from, "It was awesome," to "I don't think I've walked that much in three days before," to "I see our country's history through new eyes after being on that trip." Principal Chris Stinson, who also took the trip with students, summed it up, "Our students behaved well, the itinerary was excellent for a short trip, and students actually talked about the things they saw together. It was a great trip."

What better way to bring history, culture, progress, and career development together than to literally see students walk through the history of this great nation in representative museums and memorials. In the words of Mrs. Deborah Davis, YCC program director and system secondary administrator, "Traveling to Washington, D.C., led students to a greater understanding of why our country has accomplished what it has and why every Ameri-

can's career choice matters to our collective progress. Those were our goals for the trip, and students agree that we accomplished them.

"These students will graduate in a few weeks with a clearer understanding of why what they choose to do with the rest of their lives matters - for them as individuals and for the future of America." Submitted by: Carolei Bryan, YCC at AHS Senior Graduation Project & College Support Facilitator



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