



# WASHINGTON, DC REPORT

2022



**PREPARED BY**  
CLASS 43

# MARIA BELTRAN

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“

I had the incredible honor of introducing Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Congresswoman Schrier on the steps of our nations capital. It was truly a humbling and memorable experience.

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MARIA  
BELTRAN



My favorite part of the trip was traveling and getting to know and bond with our cohort. In addition, I really enjoyed our Gettysburg day trip. The history, the leadership skills, and the ability to learn from our instructors was extremely memorable. One of my favorite bonding experience in DC was when we all delivered our toast, which Pat won fair and square. The history and political enthusiast in me can't fail to mentioned the incredibly humbling experience it was to introduce Congresswoman Schrier and Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers on the steps of our Nations Capital.



# SEAN O'BRIEN

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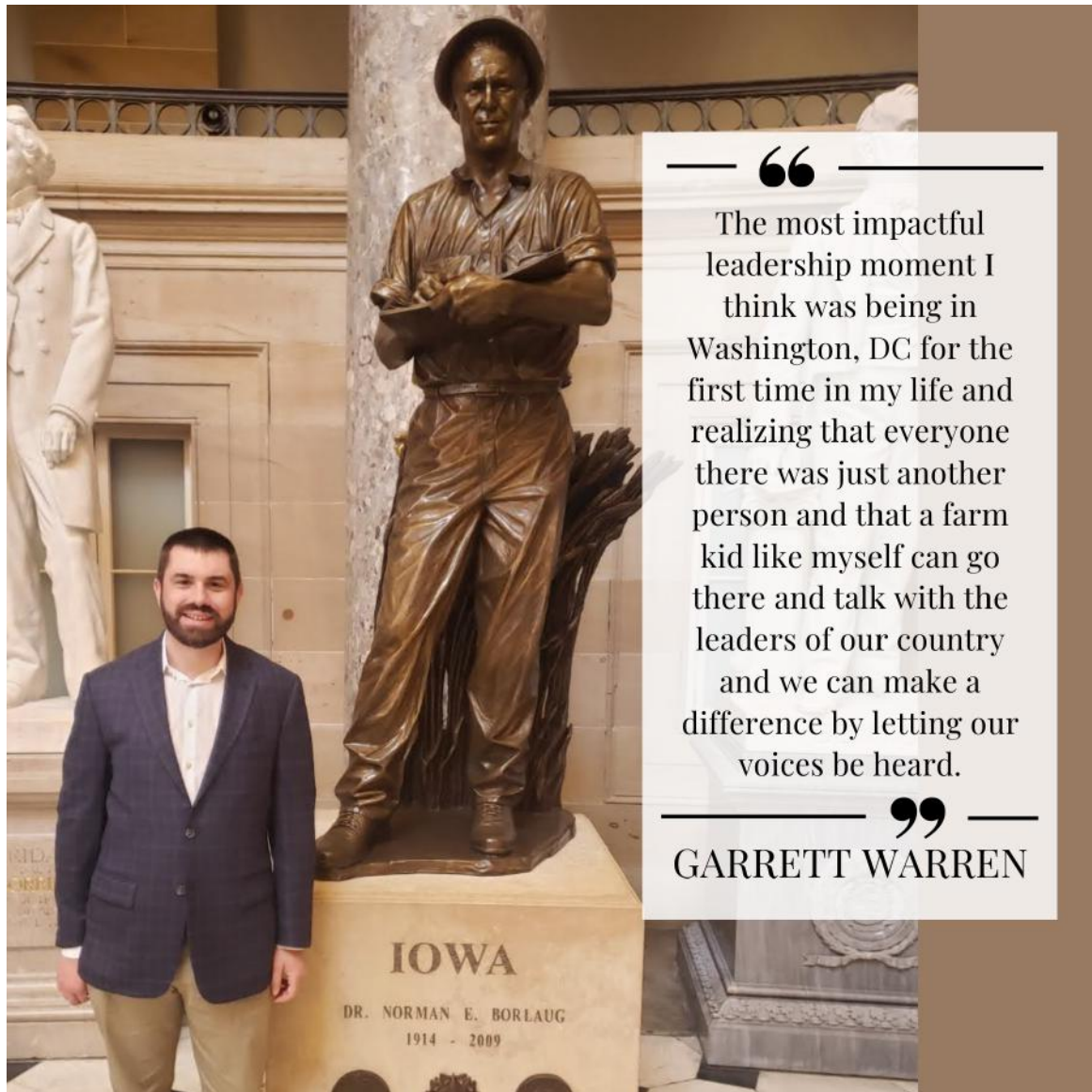
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— ” —

SEAN O'BRIEN

The opportunity to explore Gettysburg in such a unique light - focusing on leadership and assessing the critical skills development necessary for strong decision-making - was so truly valuable. Many from across the country - and across the globe - come to Gettysburg and have a moving experience just visiting the sites. Our time, though, was truly special having the incredible expertise of Dr. McCausland and Col. Vossler to shepherd us through this hallowed ground and put ourselves in the shoes of such profoundly impactful leaders in the Civil War. Not only was diving into these lessons valuable, but also critically assessing the challenging international circumstances currently unfolding in Ukraine. To have these military leaders join us, answer our questions, and challenge us to think critically - it really was something special and something I'll never forget.

# GARRETT WARREN

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— “ —

The most impactful leadership moment I think was being in Washington, DC for the first time in my life and realizing that everyone there was just another person and that a farm kid like myself can go there and talk with the leaders of our country and we can make a difference by letting our voices be heard.

— ” —

GARRETT WARREN

My favorite part was the trip to Gettysburg with Diamond6 Leadership. I learned a lot about our nations history as well as the leadership and strategies the Generals took. The most impactful leadership moment I think was being in Washington DC for the first time in my life and realizing that everyone there was just another person and that a farm kid like myself can go there and talk with the leaders of our country and we can make a difference by letting our voices be heard.



# KAREN SHEEHAN

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— “ —

One of the big leadership experiences for me was learning from Jaime Pinkham. He had so many leadership pointers, but the one that sticks with me most is that we don't empower. We find their power. This can be applied to about working with anyone in our day-to-day lives. This statement really inspired me to LEAD BIG.

— ” —

KAREN SHEEHAN

I truly loved my DC AgForestry experience. It was a time for me take it all in and be in awe of how magnificent our country really is. DC always felt untouchable for me, and after our experience, I know now that there really is a lot of great work happening. There is also an unimaginable amount to learn about our country's history and I found myself wanting to learn more than ever before. I saw the world from a different lens during my week in DC and it certainly made me a more well-rounded person. One of the big leadership experiences for me was learning from Jaime Pinkham. He had so many leadership pointers, but the one that sticks with me most is that we don't empower. We find their power. This can be applied to about working with anyone in our day-to-day lives. This statement really inspired me to LEAD BIG. :) I am extremely proud to be a part of AgForestry Class 43. What a remarkable group of folks that made the week fly by. We know how to learn from each other and have fun at the same time. One of my favorite group experiences was the "toast" dinner. What a fun and entertaining evening that could never be duplicated.

# MIKALA STAPLES-HUGHES

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“ More than anything, it was the moments spent with my classmates formally and informally where the true value of the program is realized. We have had insightful and personal conversations that have provided us all enlightenment and continues to cultivate leadership and personal improvement. ”

MIKALA STAPLES-HUGHES

The AgForestry trip to DC was something I looked toward to since applying to the program, and it did not disappoint. Highlights included the sobering tour through the Holocaust Memorial, and an incredible opportunity afforded to me at Arlington National Cemetery. To walk through such a historical and monumental site was humbling. More than anything, it was the moments spent with my classmates formally and informally where the true value of the program is realized. We have had insightful and personal conversations that have provided us all enlightenment and continues to cultivate leadership and personal improvement.



# JORDAN HANSEN

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My Washington, DC highlight was with Congresswoman Kim Schrier. I enjoyed the time she spent with us to inform us about her priorities and why they are important to her. I appreciated that she wanted to hear our thoughts and how we thought current legislation could be changed to work better for society. I am thankful for the encouragement and prompt to be curious.

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JORDAN HANSEN

My Washington D.C. highlight was with Congresswoman Kim Schrier. I enjoyed the time she spent with us to inform us about her priorities and why they are important to her. I appreciated that she wanted to hear our thoughts and how we thought current legislation could be changed to work better for society. I am thankful for the encouragement and prompt to be curious. On the last day I was able to walk the Mall with Karen and we came across an exhibit about women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) careers. As a father of two daughters this collection of 120 3-D printed statues of women leaders in STEM was awe inspiring. The best part was that many of the women were there to discuss their careers alongside their very own life size 3-D printed statue. With curiosity as my guide in the final hours of the trip serendipity led me to stumble across an amazing group of women and an exhibit highlighting their achievements.

# JARED LARWICK

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— “ —  
One of my favorite  
quotes from DC as  
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superstars and  
underdogs.  
Everybody matters."

— ” —  
JARED  
LARWICK

What an experience! I had been looking forward to this trip for months. The opportunity to be in a leadership program and have the experiences we shared together as class 43 will last a lifetime. Meeting with legislators at the Capitol and Arlington, the museums, and Gettysburg were all amazing. I'm glad I was able to share these experiences with an amazing group of people and leaders. One of my favorite quotes from D.C. as said by Jaimie Pinkham "A good team has both superstars and underdogs. Everybody matters."



# PAT CARTER

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The wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was a symbol of all those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice for us to have the freedom we are privileged to enjoy.

There was something extra special about all the experiences I had in DC, because I shared them with class 43!

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PAT  
CARTER

Most meaningful experiences were the Holocaust museum and the wreath ceremony at the tomb of the unknown soldier. The Holocaust was a reminder of how impactful leaders can be. As questioned in the discussion afterwards "how many people did Hitler actually kill (as far as we know one, himself)?" I find myself wondering if Hitler wasn't leading the Nazi party would history have played out the way it did? The wreath laying was a symbol of all those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice for us to have our freedom we are privileged to enjoy. There was something extra special about all the experiences I had in DC, because I shared them with class 43!!! The people I shared my experiences with made them that much more meaningful!

# COLLIN EMMERSON

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COLLIN EMMERSON

Being in Washington DC for the week, we got a taste of how our government is run and the challenges to make any change of significance. Speaking directly to leaders in our federal government impressed to me how being a leader can guide the narrative. National Gallery was an interesting collection of so many important eras in our nation; the art displayed the nation's temperature from the perspective of its creator. There was too much to be taken in for a single visit. Simply put, the visit documents the American experience.



# DARCY BATURA

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“  
I returned from our trip to Washington, DC inspired to challenge complacency and shine a light on people that will contribute to a future that I believe in. The experience highlighted our need for strong leaders that reflects the racial diversity of our communities and our industries. We need strong leaders everywhere: city councils, school boards, and our nation's capital.

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DARCY BATURA



Our class recently returned from an incredible eight days in Washington, DC where we met with elected representatives from WA State and discussed critical issues like the forest health and wildfire crisis in the west. We laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We felt the vibration of the Capital as it processed sobering domestic and foreign challenges during the same week as the State of the Union Address. We visited the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and the battlefield of Gettysburg. A few of the things that reverberated through me all week were that complacency and contempt are bad for us as individuals and as a society. If we want progress, we need to ask questions and listen to other perspectives. Find the areas of common ground and nurture them. Challenge complacency and shine a light on people that will contribute to a future you believe in. We need strong leaders. We need a lot of them, we need the racial makeup of those leaders to reflect our communities and our industries. And we need leaders everywhere: city councils, school boards, and our nation's capital.

# ERICA CHRISTIE-JONES

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My experience in Washington, DC with my AgForestry class 43 cohort was one of the most meaningful experiences of my life. I could have never anticipated the impact those seven days would have on my career and personal growth. The most moving experiences for me were the Holocaust museum, the wreath ceremony at Arlington, and our time in Gettysburg. I was motivated and inspired to see the way that people are leading and collaborating to bring positive change to the natural resources industry. I left DC with a re-invigorated sense of passion to lead big in my career and personal life. I will always cherish the time we spent together as a class bonding, laughing, exploring and making memories.



# CLASS 43 DC TIMELINE

February 26th - March 5th, 2022

**The adventure begins** as AgForestry class 43 lands in Washington, DC for a week of learning about our Nation's history, our national government, and leadership development.



Our morning was spent meeting with the Forest Service which spurred a educational debate about forest health for the class. Our day ended with a reception at the home of Mark Emmerson, CEO of Sierra Pacific, and Kathryn Emmerson, lobbyist for Sierra Pacific. At the reception, a discussion was facilitated by Georgetown University Assistant Dean, Samuel Aronson, debriefing our afternoon visiting the Holocaust museum.

DAY  
1



We had the pleasure of exploring DC as a class for our first full day. We visited many of the monuments and museums together. The class 'toasts' dinner was a highlight of the trip for all of us and created memories we will not soon forget.

DAY  
2

DAY  
3



# TIMELINE CONTINUED

## Class 43



DAY  
4

This day kicked off with a visit to the US Dairy Export Council which was followed by a meeting with Congresswoman Kim Schrier where we had a healthy dialogue about current issues Washington State is facing. This was followed by a quick and chilly meeting on the capitol steps with Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers. The day ended with the class cozied up in a hotel room watching the State of the Union address.

Class 43 had the incredible honor of participating in a wreath laying ceremony on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier where class president, Mikala Staples-Hughes alongside Congressman Dan Newhouse, presented a Washington State themed wreath. This was one of the most impactful experiences of our time in DC.

DAY  
5





# TIMELINE CONTINUED

## Class 43

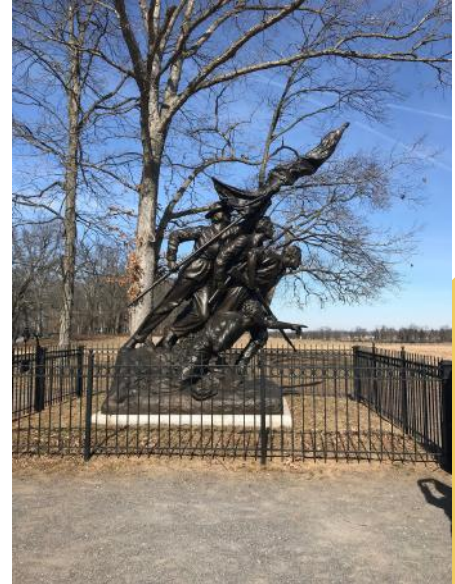


DAY  
6

During the morning the class participated in learning sessions at the American Farm Bureau with leadership classes from South Dakota and Oklahoma. During the evening, the class had a rooftop reception filled with lively discussions, a beautiful sunset, and a surprise poetry performance.

Another impactful experience of the trip was our day in Gettysburg. We spent the day with Daimond6 Leadership working our way through the events of the battle, the leadership lessons learned, and the memorials and monuments that honor those lost.

DAY  
7



# Next stop, Colville!

The logo for AgForestry LEADERSHIP. It features a stylized green and yellow wave graphic to the left of the text "AgForestry" in a bold, green, sans-serif font. Below "AgForestry" is the word "LEADERSHIP" in a smaller, green, all-caps, sans-serif font.