

Emma Crawford

Lely High School

### Georgetown International Relations 2016

When the opportunity arose to travel to the nation's capital and study international relations at one of the finest institutions for foreign studies, I pursued it without hesitation. I am extremely thankful for my acceptance to the program, the generous scholarship from the NCWA so that I could attend, and most of all the knowledge and extraordinary experiences I acquired during my week at Georgetown University.

My week at Georgetown was absolutely phenomenal. I studied under the guidance of esteemed professors and professionals in fields from international law to digital social media to cyberattacks. I learned about current events that occurred in real life during the week, such as Brexit, the attack in Nice, and turmoil in Turkey. I met incredibly bright students from around the world, learning about some of their cultures and perspectives on global issues. The combination of different cultures, perspectives, and intelligence from so many different backgrounds and experiences cultivated an environment that was engaging and challenging, but vastly enlightening and welcoming.

Residential and social life at Georgetown was also a new experience for me. Living on campus for the week, staying in a dorm and eating dining hall food was a great experience, allowing me to sample college life and what to expect soon. My roommate and I had a great relationship and made many friends through our residence hall. Georgetown had an assortment of events to choose from every night, from crepe-making lessons to college admissions advice. We also had several interesting field trips throughout the week, such as to Capitol Hill, the National Park and the Saudi Arabian embassy. One memorable experience was during our trip to

the Hill to meet with a Congress member when the Hill was shut down for suspicious activity in the area.

Going into my week at Georgetown, I kept an open mind to the idea that I might develop a passion for international relations as a major or area of study in my continued education. For most of my life, I had insisted that a path in science, math, technology, or engineering would be the best suit for me. However, through this program, I recognized the real importance of international affairs for the future of our nation and the world at large. This awareness led me to desire a way to participate in the ever-changing international system in any way possible, whether it be small or large. One of the most impactful things I learned at this program was that there are so many different ways to pursue international relations. The field of international affairs is not limited to diplomacy; it may be implemented through technology, medicine, and even music (one of the most interesting lectures we had was titled “Music and Politics”). With this in mind, I am now confident I can pursue a career that will allow me to incorporate the disciplines I learned through this program and make my contribution to the world of international relations.