Jackson Leadership Fellows Shine in Washington, D.C.

The Jackson Leadership Fellows, who have been meeting monthly and receiving professional guidance and leadership training from an array of experts here in the Northwest, recently went to Washington, D.C., ending their program year on a high note. The trip allowed the Fellows to showcase their talents, introduce the program to other young people—in this case a crowded room full of Washington D.C. interns—and meet the Washington Congressional Delegation. The jam-packed agenda included a private conversation with four Washington State Members of Congress who candidly shared their thoughts on current political developments and answered questions, and both of Washington’s powerful senators who took the time to get to know our Fellows and the work they are doing back in Puget Sound.

The Fellows were also treated to in-depth, thoughtful discussions with long-time public servants speaking about their work in Washington, D.C., their ability to make progress across changing political administrations, and their reasons for choosing public service as a career. Their reflections captivated the Fellows. In addition, a half day at the Wilson Center included panels featuring the Fellows in front of a large, diverse audience of young people that captured the Fellows’ insights, stories, advice and tips for the young interns spending the summer in Washington. The Fellows, who are just young enough to be believable to the fresh-faced Washington newcomers, but experienced enough to provide solid, profound and honest feedback on how to navigate challenges and professional advancement, made us proud.

As Board President John Hempelmann and Board member Susan Wickwire, who accompanied the group, agreed, this was a much-needed antidote to the political blues and skepticism that have infected many of us in this gridlocked and polarized time. The optimism, engagement, and commitment of this extraordinary cadre of young leaders—from 26 – 40 years old—provide a reason to embrace the future of our communities and our nation with a degree of hope.

Pictured from left: John Hempelmann, Radha Friedman, Nora Ferm Nickum, Alyssa Patrick, Senator Patty Murray, Kiana Scott, Connor Birkeland, Maggie Wykowski, Alex Adams, Susan Wickwire, Amarpreet Sethi, and Hans Zeiger.

Photos courtesy of Carol Vipperman

Congresswoman Suzan DelBene speaking with Kiana Scott and Alyssa Patrick.
Attorney General Ferguson Shares Recent Successes with 2017 Jackson Leadership Fellows

Bob Ferguson, Washington State Attorney General and Jackson Foundation Honorary Council of Advisors member, offered the 2017 Jackson Leadership Fellows a backstage view of the events leading up to filing a lawsuit to invalidate President Trump’s executive order temporarily barring all refugees and immigration from seven majority-Muslim countries. He used this experience as a way to draw attention to important aspects of leadership, such as the willingness to take calculated risks and accept defeat if necessary.

Capitol Briefing Draws Attention to Climate Security

“The Department of Defense has a long history of taking climate impacts seriously because they create and intensify operational risks and global instability. This is a real threat, not an imagined threat based on a political agenda,” Rear Admiral Ann C. Phillips, USN (Ret), commented at a recent Congressional briefing the Foundation held in partnership with the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) and the Center for Climate and Security. The Capitol Hill briefing on The National Security Implications of Climate Change also featured from left, Hon. John Conger, Former Principal Deputy Undersecretary of Defense; Hon. Sherri Goodman, Former Deputy Undersecretary of Defense; General Ron Keys, USAF (Ret); and Brigadier General Gerald Galloway, USA (Ret). With President Trump’s recent decision to withdraw from the Paris climate accord, the event proved especially timely—drawing live C-SPAN coverage and an overflow crowd.