

Amber McCoy - WV

While the entire USSYP experience was incredible, the speaker who stood out to me was Justice Sonia Sotomayor. I have the odd feeling it will be a bit of a cliché, but Justice Sotomayor truly inspired me. She succeeded despite the adversity she faced and is truly a symbol for all Americans to chase after their dreams. On top of that, I never would have imagined how incredibly down-to-earth she is! Instead of reciting some vague speech intended to pass time as quickly as possible, Justice Sotomayor actually spoke to us as people.

I believe Justice Sotomayor surprised us all when she spontaneously sat on top of the table and looked at us. If not at that moment, then surely jaws dropped when she suggested shaking our hands and taking photos! As we move forward in our lives, we should remember the people and the experiences from our week in Washington D.C. – including Justice Sotomayor who showed us that people with genuine character and personality can succeed in this world.