

Braxton Zink, AK – 2022

“The only source of knowledge is experience”
- Albert Einstein

Experience is a quality that is appreciated, admired, expected, and required in today's modern society. Colleges today are moving away from deciding on students solely on test scores, and more on extracurricular activities, and accomplishments. Most employers are more likely to hire experienced and qualified workers. In the political landscape, people are more likely to vote, support, and listen to candidates and individuals who are experienced. Experience is arguably one of the most important qualities that an individual can possess- as it probably should be.

There is perhaps no greater institution for aspiring activists and politicians than the United States Senate Youth Program. USSYP is a fantastic establishment because it allows dedicated and passionate students to acquire the experience that is so desperately needed to succeed.

And what an experience it was! I will always remember the events, speakers, and friendships from my time in the U.S. Senate Youth Program. Even though the program lasted for less than a week, there was still enough time to meet extraordinary people that I never would have met if it weren't for this Program. On top of meeting a plethora of like-minded, astounding peers, I was also able to meet and speak with multiple established politicians and government workers who are making a monumental difference in our government.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity that this program has given me. I am confident that my newfound knowledge and experience will benefit, and support me for years to come, no matter what route I take in life.