

Washington Week 2026

Yours Truly Hotel
1143 New Hampshire Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20037

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Monday, June 1

- 7:30 a.m. **Registration Opens**
- 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. **Networking Breakfast for Returning Attendees**
First-time Attendee Breakfast Session
- 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. **Welcome to Washington Week**
Opening Remarks by AACTE, NCTR, and DFI Leaders
Interactive Role Play Activity
Agenda Review and Announcements
- 10:00 – 10:15 a.m. **Networking Break**
Holmes Scholars & Other Students Depart for Advocacy Organization Meetings
- 10:15 – 11:45 a.m. **Session I: The Appropriations “Process”: Rules, Norms, and Reality**
- 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Networking Lunch**
- 11:45 – 4:00 p.m. **State Leaders Institute**
- 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. **Session IIA: Introduction to Advocacy – The Elevator Pitch**
Session IIB:
Advanced Techniques for Seasoned Advocates
Session IIC:
NCTR & DFI Member Meetings
- 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. **Networking Break**

*Unless otherwise noted, all meeting rooms are on the lower level.

- 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. **Session III: Understanding the Administration’s Actions on Federal Grants, Research, and Other Programs**
- 3:30 – 4:15 p.m. **Holmes Scholars Off-site Debrief**
- 4:15 – 5:00 p.m. **Distribution of Day on the Hill Final Schedules & Raben Briefing for Team Leaders**
- 5:00 – 5:30 p.m. **Break**
- 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. **Networking Reception** (location TBD)

Tuesday, June 2

- 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. **Networking Breakfast for all Attendees**
- 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. **Media Training for State Leaders**
- 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. **Overview of Day on the Hill Advocacy Priorities**
- 10:00 – 10:15 a.m. **Networking Break**
- 10:15 – 11:30 a.m. **Keynote Address or Washington Week Veterans Panel**
- 11:30 a.m. **Instructions for Day on the Hill Preparation**
- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. **Networking Lunch for State Teams**
- 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. **State Team Preparation for Day on the Hill**
- 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. **State Team “Office Hours” with Raben/AACTE/NCTR/DFI Staff**
- 5:00 – 5:30 p.m. **Raben Available for Final Questions**
- Evening **Dinner on Your Own**

Wednesday, June 3

- 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. **Grab-and-Go Breakfast, Hotel Check-out, and Luggage Storage**
- 8:00 a.m. **Transportation to Capitol Hill**
- 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Day on the Hill: Meetings with House and Senate Offices**
(Transportation after Day on the Hill is on your own)

Monday, June 8

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2:00 – 3:00 pm ET

Virtual Debrief and Advocacy Planning for All Attendees

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