

The Congressman Chris Stewart Security Summit: an Intern's Perspective

This semester, I have been blessed with the opportunity to intern with Congressman Chris Stewart in his district office in Salt Lake City. Normally, my days consist mostly of writing letters to constituents and answering phone calls, but on March 26, 2018, I was given the opportunity to assist Congressman Stewart's congressional office by helping host Congressman Stewart's security summit. The experience was one I will never forget and was quite possibly the most memorable day of my internship.

The Security Summit took months of planning and organizing. Our office has put on this summit before, so many staffers already knew what needed to be done for the summit. As an intern who was new at the beginning of January, I really had no idea what this summit entailed, so I went along with whatever jobs I was given relating to the summit. I was given more and more ways to help the closer the summit got, and our entire office spent the Friday before the summit stuffing folders for the summit and putting nametags in badges. Though it was rather monotonous to do these jobs, everyone was doing them, so we were able to bond as an office to get everything ready. The actual day of the conference could not have gone any better. The speakers the Congressman chose were absolutely wonderful, and the guests were extremely respectful. Regrettably, I was not able to listen to a full speech by any speaker because I was running around helping staffers and manning the registration table, but the parts I was able to listen to were absolutely amazing. My personal favorite speakers were Congressman Trey Gowdy and Senator Tim Scott, who gave a speech/panel about their friendship and unity in these divided times. The most touching part of the whole speech was Congressman Gowdy's story about how Senator Scott reacted to a horrible story written about him. Congressman Gowdy approached Senator Scott with the story, and Senator Scott responded by asking Gowdy to pray with him for the person who wrote the story. I believe

this was a testament to the character of Senator Scott, and Congressman Stewart and Gowdy confirmed this.

While the speeches and events of the security conference were exciting, I wish I was able to attend a little more of the conference. Hearing bits and pieces of the speeches were great, but I regret not listening to one full speech. However, I was able to attend a recruiting session for the CIA afterwards with students from many different universities across Utah. Since I am hoping to pursue a career in national security law and policy, I was very excited to learn more about one of the largest and well agencies in the intelligence community. The event was great and taught many of the students about what the CIA has to offer. This recruiting session was the best part of the day and an excellent culmination of the day's events. I am sure the other students who attended the security summit and the recruiting session would agree. The day was a smashing success and I could not be prouder of everyone involved. I am confident next year's conference will be even better.

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