



Public Schools of Plainfield New Jersey

Office of Community Engagement

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Plainfield Public Schools Students Win at the Junior Statesmen of America Winter Model Congress *Over 35 Students participated in the event*

Plainfield, NJ – March 1, 2019 - The Plainfield High School and PAAAS Debate Teams attended the Junior Statesmen of America Winter Model Congress in Arlington, VA on February 22-24. Over 35 students from PHS and PAAAS attended the three-day event. Most of the teams participated in various debates including in the subsequent speakers and moderators competition.

During the Model Congress, Plainfield High School's students were successful in passing a bill in both Houses. The bill to allow courts to assign military time in lieu of a prison sentence passed 42-22-2 abstain in the House of Representatives. The Senate vote was 43-10-8 abstain. Plainfield High School student, Chimezie Amaechi, won a best debater gavel for her all around participation in several debates. This was her first win. "The JSA Winter Congress was an amazing experience. It introduced me to different people, with different personalities and different beliefs. I had the honor of having the chapters bill passed and also winning the Best Speaker Gavel. All in all, an outstanding experience."

The PAAAS's chapter of the debate team also won passing of one of their bills in both houses with team members, Janine Gaffrey, Zahir Taylor, Chante White, and Daniel Geter. Brianna Richards was awarded Best Speaker.

This trip included a visit to the White House, Capitol Building and to Senator Corey Booker's office. This was the first time the students visited the White House and the New Jersey Senator's Office in the Hart Building.

At the Junior Statesmen of America Winter Model Congress, the students engaged in debates with students from secondary schools throughout the northeast United States. The students examined current issues, renewed their skills in critical thinking, oral presentation, and their knowledge of the structure and functions of Congress and how a bill is passed. The students presented their points of view with the goal of having their proposals approved by their peers.

Plainfield High School Debate Team president, Anthony Moncion was pleased about the outcome of his team's participation, " I am extremely proud of the work and success that my team and I were able to accomplish. We had an amazing time and so many memories that I'll never forget. We had some shy moments, but success is never elusive for the Plainfield Chapter."

The Plainfield High School Debate Team will host a Model Congress in May 2019. For more information please call 9098-731-4333 or email gmontealegre@plainfield.k12.nj.us

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