

Students field trip to capitol with Mayor

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Keith Curry, Newport Beach Mayor and Director for the Center of Public Policy, and four Concordia students attended the Sacramento Legislative Convention at the State Capitol. The purpose of the trip was to educate on legislative matters and expand knowledge of public policy on a state level. The students who accompanied the mayor were Keane Anrig, senior; Jachin Anrig, sophomore; Sarah Hostetler, senior; and Sean Rhyme, senior.

"The goal of the Sacramento seminar is to give students an up-close look at how Sacramento works and the opportunity to speak directly with legislators, state constitutional officers, lobbyists, and staff members," said Curry.

The annual seminar, which recently celebrated its 55th anniversary, is hosted by Loyola Marymount University. The sessions were held at the California Capitol Building, each including a panel consisting of legislators, government leaders, and advocates who focused on current issues.

There was a time for questions and answers at the end of each session, allowing students to engage in discussion with the panelists.

"One of the most eye opening parts of the trip was seeing how influential lobbyists and staff are in creating and passing legislation," said Jachin Anrig. "I learned that the Democrats' plan to solve for the state debt was to increase taxes across the board. The most memorable part was meeting Assemblyman Wagner and State Senator Walters."

"It was great to hear from [panelists] on the future of the Republican Party," said Rhyme. "I thought it was very insightful that the Republicans are trying to show they are looking out for the greater good of businesses." Rhyme, who has an interest in pursuing local politics, added, "Overall I was intrigued by visiting the State Capital, and it was a once in a lifetime experience."

"The most educational part of the trip was learning about how the ones running our government are the lobbyists and bureaucrats," said Keane Anrig, who was attending the seminar for

the second year.

Concordia's Center for Public Policy hopes to be a part of the Sacramento Legislative Convention for years to come. "The goal of the

Center of Public Policy is to equip Concordia students to be better informed citizens and voters," said Curry. "I am very pleased Concordia was able to be part of this 50-year-old program."



(From left to right) Sean Rhyme, Jachin Anrig, Sarah Hostetler, Mayor Keith Curry, and Keane Anrig pose before the Legislative Convention.