

RMH Allied Health Partnership Student Attends National Young Leaders Conference

ROME—Abby Regner, 17, a Madison-Oneida BOCES Allied Health Partnership (AHP) program student at Rome Memorial Hospital, recently attended the National Young Leaders Conference (NYLC) in Washington, D.C. A senior at Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School, Abby is participating in the Allied Health Partnership program at the hospital in order to gain insight into the medical field. She will be pursuing her undergraduate degree in biology next fall and plans to pursue a graduate degree in genetics counseling.



“We are very proud of Abby and her accomplishments,” said Rome Memorial Hospital Director of Education Gale Barone, BS, RN. “Students like Abby are the future of this hospital,” she added. “Abby exemplifies the traits of what we are looking for in future leaders, such as enthusiasm, the ability to lead others, involvement in the community, and high scholastic scores.”

Abby was one of 300 students from the United States chosen to participate in the leadership development program based on scholastic merit, community involvement and leadership contributions.

“By participating in the National Young Leaders Conference, students like Abby Regner will become better equipped to address the challenges facing communities around the world,” said Mike Lasday, executive director of Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC), the organization that sponsors NYLC. “Rarely does someone so young come to our nation’s capital to interact with today’s elected officials, presidential appointees and nationally recognized opinion makers. This program offers young leaders Washington, D.C. as their classroom.”

“This was a big wake-up call because you don’t realize how hard it is politically – how difficult it is to make decisions,” said Abby. During the conference, she and the other students simulated the role of various leaders. She simulated the role of a CIA Director. She said she definitely has more respect for leaders and politicians now than ever before. “I have a lot more respect now for what it takes to be a good leader, to be effective and not to give up.”

Abby and other participating students were welcomed to the floor of the House of Representatives by Former U.S. Representative Jim Slattery of Kansas, an honor usually reserved for members of Congress and their special guests. The students filled the chamber where the State of the Union Address takes place. Slattery told the students, “Generally speaking, there are two breeds of leaders: those who want to be

somebody and those who want to do something. I prefer the type of leader who leads vowing to achieve something – What I call leading with a servant’s heart. You will know you are accomplishing good things when you recognize the value you add wherever you are.”

Because leadership goes beyond what happens on Capitol Hill, Abby had the opportunity to interact with a panel of renowned journalists from Washington’s press corps, including Mike Allen (The Washington Post), Helene Cooper (Wall Street Journal), Tom Gjelten (National Public Radio) and Tamara Lytle (Orlando Sentinel). Students had the questions to ask questions regarding national and international current events, ethics in journalism and advice on how to start a career in the news industry.

“I am impressed with the AHP students that have come through our doors here at the hospital,” said Barone. “I have great hope for the future of healthcare when I see their enthusiasm, their intelligence and the leadership abilities.”