

Letter of Thanks

August 3, 2016

Dear Mr. Robb,



I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for being selected as the FBI-LEEDA Chapter Representative of the FBINAA Youth Leadership Program's 18th Session. The week I spent down in Quantico, Virginia was, by far, the greatest week of my life. Not only did I learn an abundance of new skills, but I also was surrounded by 59 other students whom I know will change the world.

Each morning we were transported to Quantico from our hotel (due to dorm construction, we stayed at a nearby hotel). At Quantico, we had daily classes that focused on improving our leadership skills. Our counselors taught two courses each, and all the courses were beneficial. Specifically, my favorite course was called "Bad Leadership". This course highlighted famous people, each evoking seven different types of bad leadership. The types included in this course were: incompetent, rigid, intemperate, callous, corrupt, insular, and evil. Other courses discussed time management, setting goals, proper use of social media, and handling financial responsibility. A few of our courses also touched on law enforcement and forensics.

The FBINAA Youth Leadership Program is unique in such a way that I arrived as a stranger, but left with many new friendships. I did not know one single person going into the program, but left with 59 new best friends. I met kids from Puerto Rico, Canada, Australia, and even Poland. Each lived a long way from my home of Massachusetts, and through them, I saw a glimpse of the world I had never seen before. In a time of such tension in the world, these friends showed me the good there still is. All were motivated, bright, charismatic, incredible people who I will never forget. The bonds I formed with them is truly unlike any other friendships I've had; in one week, I became closer with these students than many of my hometown friends.

Both the counselors and students taught me life lessons I will always carry with me. The common phrase used throughout the week was "adapt and overcome". When life throws something unexpected at you, you must learn how to change your course of action and proceed through the challenge. I learned how to lead people effectively, through balancing being tough, yet kind. I learned that in order to be a leader, you have to form strong relationships with the people you are leading. Show passion. Be brave. Do not settle for mediocre. The list of lessons goes on and on. I have acquired the confidence in pursuing my goals, no matter how big, and finding my passions in life. The FBINAA YLP Program truly changed my life, and is an experience I will never forget.

With my sincerest gratitude,

Kendyl Ryan
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FBINAA YLP Graduate - Session 18

