

Four Networks Scholars attend Regulatory Reform Summit

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For the Republican / WASHINGTON, D.C. — Four Indiana State University Networks Scholars were selected from the 29 scholars on campus to represent the university at Networks Financial Institute's (NFI) second annual Regulatory Reform Summit March 2 and 3 in Washington, D.C.

Sophomores Ashley Cameron, Michael Haseley and Danielle Thompson and freshman Sean Harmon earned the opportunity to network with financial services industry professionals, policymakers and faculty as part of Summit festivities in the nation's capitol.



Lou Dobbs (center), anchor of CNN's Lou Dobbs Tonight, the Lou Dobbs Financial Report and a columnist for Money magazine and U.S. News and World Report, meets Indiana State's four Networks Scholars in attendance at this year's Regulatory Reform Summit.

"I think it's fantastic that our students are participating and that they're able to come to Washington," ISU President Lloyd W. Benjamin III said. "I think it's really important that they have had this opportunity to put the classroom out against reality and see how these things interconnect. This Summit really provides an opportunity for them to experience it firsthand."

Students were required to complete an application and essay in order to be considered to attend this year's event, which took place at Washington's Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. More than 100 policymakers, legislators and financial leaders attended.

Sophomore finance major Ashley Cameron of Rushville (Rushville Consolidated High School graduate) said attending the Summit was a way for her to more clearly define her interest in insurance as a possible future career.

"I'm in the process of deciding whether to double major in insurance," Cameron said. "This reform is about insurance issues and I thought coming to the Summit would be a great opportunity for me to learn about whether or not insurance is a great fit for me."

The daughter of Richard and Diana Cameron, Ashley also is involved at ISU as vice-president of alumni affairs for Alpha Kappa Psi professional business fraternity and serves as an Academic Peer Advocate.

Sean Harmon, the son of Randy and Jeri Harmon of Terre Haute, was the only freshman at this year's Summit. A business administration and information design/end-user computing major (South High School graduate), Harmon realized quickly what opportunities attending the Summit afforded him.

"I'm very honored to be here," Harmon said. He who got a taste of Indiana State and the field of business during a Summer Honors insurance seminar. "It's a great opportunity for me to network with all of these industry leaders - really our nation's leaders - and to become more familiar with the entire legislative process."

Sophomore insurance/risk management and accounting major Michael Haseley, the son of Paul

and Doris Haseley of Argos, agreed that rubbing elbows with leaders in the financial services industry was a very appealing part of the whole Summit experience.

"This is a great experience," Haseley said. He is involved in Alpha Kappa Psi and Gamma Iota Sigma at ISU and has served as a student worker with NFI. "All of the experiences I've had as a Networks Scholar have helped me develop a lot more professionally. I can't really express how great of an opportunity this is."

Danielle Thompson, a sophomore insurance major from Terre Haute (South High School graduate), was thrilled with the experience of networking in the nation's capitol and with the opportunity to bridge the gap between the ISU campus and the financial services' regulatory reform sector.

"It's really interesting to see all of the people from Indiana State here," Thompson said. "We're used to seeing them on campus and in the classroom, but now we're here in the nation's capitol and talking to them about insurance regulatory reform. It's really exciting to see all of this happening in the financial services industry."

A member of Gamma Iota Sigma and Insurance Honors Corps, Thompson is the daughter of Yogi and Beth Thompson of Terre Haute.

"One of the most gratifying parts of our program is the fact that we've had students who've been able to be involved so early in their careers," Ron Green, dean of ISU's College of Business, said. "Here are four students – not graduate students, but undergraduates – who are actually starting to understand that what they learn in the classroom has some relevance and some application. Getting involved is certainly critical to what we're trying to produce in the long run."

In addition to attending the dinner and reception on the eve of the Summit as well as the Summit itself, scholars had the opportunity to tour the Capitol Building and observe some of the action on the Senate floor.

"I think it's fabulous (having four scholars present)," Liz Georgakopoulos, executive director of Networks Financial Institute, said. "It's encouraging to see them really understand how to take advantage of such a unique opportunity and to understand why it is important for them as they try and build their careers. We're pleased that they'll be able to take this excitement back to campus."