

February 15, 2011

Dear Past State Commanders Club,

I would like to thank you for your dedication to Boys and Girls State. Boys and Girls State has positively impacted the lives of thousands of students throughout the years in Michigan. I am so thankful that I was able to be one of them. Thank you for making Girls State such a successful program. I have learned and benefited so much from my experience. The opportunity to attend Girls State has been one of the best things that has ever happened to me.

My journey through Girls State: When I first heard about Girls State I knew it was for me. When I received a packet of information pertaining to the offices that individuals could run for I set a goal for myself. That goal was to become the Governor of the 2010 Michigan Girls State. I came up with a corny but catchy slogan, "If you vote for Heidi J., you'll be okay!" It seemed to have an immediate impact. I started campaigning right away. Throughout the week my knowledge and opinions were tested and tried. My journey to becoming Governor was bumpy at times, but in the end my goal became reality. Politics were played and I was voted out of the Nationalist candidates running for Governor. I decided to run for Secretary of State, and was voted in. At the closing ceremony Girls State history was made. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor were both chosen to be senators at Girls Nation. Because of this occurrence the Secretary of State (myself) and the Attorney General were sworn in as the Governor and Lieutenant Governor. I was shocked. God worked in miraculous ways.

Throughout Girls State I learned many valuable lessons. Some of these lessons are that you should set goals for yourself, you should always continue on, even when things seem to be going wrong, and that you always need to be true to yourself, because that is all people really want. I will take my experiences from Girls State throughout the rest of my life.

After I attain a degree in communications, I would like to pursue a career in media broadcasting. I feel as though media is one of the most influential sources in the lives of Americans today. I want to make a difference. Girls State has helped me find my voice and has influenced my future plans and goals. I thank you all so much for all you do. Girls State was truly a blessing to my life, and I am so thankful that I was able to attend.

Sincerely,

  
Heidi Johnson

Governor of the 2010 Michigan Girls State