

Enrichment Award Report  
International Conference for Sustainable Development  
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Going to the ICSD was exactly what I needed at the beginning of my second year of college! I was able to listen to the Crown Prince of Norway advocate for gender equality in the sustainable development field. He argued that it is time for everyone to be included in the conversation as we strive to manage the challenges that the United Nations has brought up. These included extreme poverty, quality education, peace, climate change, among many others. He also reiterated the importance of getting to work where sustainability is concerned because we are not doing a great job at dealing with climate change. This was supported by the Prime Minister of New Zealand, who also spoke to the importance of women in this conversation, and gave us advice on how to overcome and succeed in being part of political platforms that are changing the world. She also talked about how New Zealand is a leader in sustainability initiatives and pretty much told us that everyone else has to catch up because some countries are drowning and we aren't doing much to help, but rather keep making it worse. This trip was very important to my education beyond the inspirational part of it, and the reassurance of my career path, as navigating New York on our own (Kai and I) was an overwhelming but rewarding adventure. It was also amazing to meet people from different countries and schools, tour Columbia University, and admire the diversity of the city and how it powers the beauty of it as well.

Conveniently, I was also able to go to a demonstration of Venezuelans in New York who wanted to manifest the importance of intervention of the humanitarian crisis of the country in observance of the 74th general assembly of the United Nations. It was an empowering experience, and also fascinating because we were not the only group there, but there were multiple communities doing something similar for the groups they represented. It reminded me that there is too much to do in the world, and too much we have to take care of, and of the importance of the education I am getting right now. I have come back more inspired and fuel to get my engineering degree and be successful in my field.