

Congressional Visits Day 2017 recap

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By **Tricia L. Freshour**
ACerS liaison to the Material Advantage Student Program

The Material Advantage Congressional Visits Day (CVD) was held April 4–5, 2017, in Washington, D.C. CVD is an annual event that gives students an opportunity to visit Washington to educate congressional decision makers about the importance of funding for basic science, engineering, and technology.

The CVD experience began with an opening reception featuring talks by Toby Smith, Association for American Universities (AAU); Patrick Cavanagh, Lobby-It; and Aaron Dunn, TMS/MRS Congressional Science & Engineering Fellow. Most congressional visits were held with legislators and staffers on April 5. To top off CVD this year, the Washington, D.C. Chapter of ASM International hosted a baseball game at Nationals Park between the Washington

Nationals and the Florida Marlins, which gave students an opportunity to network and share their experiences.

CVD yielded a record-breaking attendance this year—39 students and faculty participated in the event from the following universities:

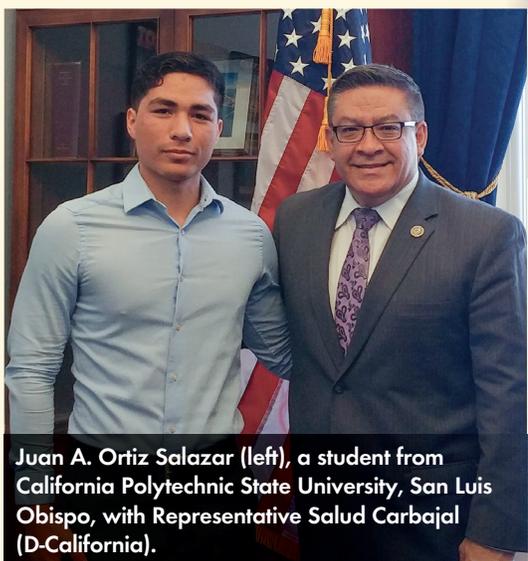
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- Case Western Reserve University
- Colorado School of Mines
- Drexel University
- Iowa State University
- Michigan Technological University
- Missouri University of Science and Technology
- Purdue University
- University of Alabama, Birmingham
- University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

“This was an absolutely fantastic experience. I learned so much and really enjoyed my time in our nation’s capital. Thank you for your dedication and organization to Congressional Visit Days. I will be back next year!”

— Kim Bessler, Colorado School of Mines



The Michigan Tech group paused to take a photo in the beautiful sunshine in front of the Capitol Building: (left to right) Emily Hunt, Violet Thole, Professor Steve Kampe, Jeff Brookins, and Phil Staublin.



Juan A. Ortiz Salazar (left), a student from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, with Representative Salud Carbajal (D-California).



CVD 2017 participants at the event’s opening reception and training on April 4.



The Colorado School of Mines group—(left to right) Ryan Mathiesen, Jordan Carson, Emily Mitchell, Kim Bessler, and Elizabeth Palmiotti—got a chance of a lifetime to tour the Capitol Building, including the rotunda and statutory hall. They were also able to get this picture on Speaker Paul Ryan’s balcony.

“I thought the program was again a great experience. I did like the timing of the conference this year as it pulls back away from finals time. The baseball game was awesome—thanks to the D.C. chapter that sponsored it!”

— Jonathan Healy, Case Western Reserve University