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To Whom It May Concern:

Student Statesmanship Institute (SSI) is an organization that builds leaders. Their program features Biblical worldview training and pro-active strategies for understanding and combating cultural decay. These are woven through and applied with hands-on government, media, and law simulations. As part of my Government class, all of our school's 11th graders attend a 3-day on-site program hosted at Cornerstone University each January. This trip brings my instruction to a very practical level, as the students become legislators, form committees, study actual bills, and then debate them in SSI's Mock Legislature. It is one of the highlights of the juniors' year.

SSI's summer programs are set up similarly, but the camp-style week allows students extended time to explore their roles, dig deeper into research and learning, and present their final debates on the floor of the Michigan House of Representatives in Lansing. State and national leaders (judges, legislators, business people, lawyers, and many others) volunteer their time to the camps, mentoring, training, and challenging students' thinking. On top of it all, the positively-charged atmosphere of young people who want to engage these issues, the bonding during meals and activity times, and the incredible worship sessions, give the week long-lasting impact.

In the summer of 2006, the Lord provided the opportunity for three of our students to attend one of these camps, and I had the awesome experience of joining them as a chaperone. It was a pleasure to watch these talented students apply the intellect, critical thinking, and oral presentation skills given by God and shaped by our school. I knew before we went that they would enjoy themselves and would have good success. What I did not expect was the powerful impact the week would have in non-academic ways.

We talked non-stop all the way home from Lansing, the conversations continued via e-mail over the summer, and once fall came, we pooled all of our thoughts and presented an SSI chapel to the entire student body. These quotes speak to different parts of SSI's impact:

9th grade Mock Legislature participant (male): "It's great to be around a group of teens who are sold out to God."

11th grade Mock Trial participant (male): "It's encouraging to see that there are so many leaders who really want to do what's right."

11th grade Mock Trial participant (female): "The week at SSI made me fall in love with God again."

ALL: "It really *was* fun."

When was the last time you heard a teenager say that a week away from their friends at home, spent studying governmental and law issues, was FUN? SSI is truly unique in both scope and impact. I highly recommend SSI's teaching, application, and overall vision-casting. Your teens will be changed forever.

Sincerely,

Sara Sisco
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