

## NAFSA Advocacy Day March 2018

Going into NAFSA Advocacy Day March 2018 I was excited and so nervous. It was not something I ever imagined doing. I debated about what to say, what to wear, having enough evidence to back-up what I was saying, and so much more. In a time where international education, whether it is incoming international students and scholars to outgoing domestic students embarking on a life changing journey, isn't looked so favorably upon I was worried about the responses we would receive from meeting with the Wisconsin representatives. I am so passionate about international education and I hoped that they would be able to see my passion.

Upon arriving to NAFSA Advocacy Days, I was greeted by wonderful NAFSA folks and other attendees with just as much passion as me. I was relieved that there was a group of from Wisconsin and that I wouldn't be going into this alone. NAFSA did an amazing job preparing us for this exciting opportunity. They provided economic, academic and cultural examples to draw upon when planning our visits to the Capital to meet with our representatives. Team Wisconsin came together and shared our ideas, stories and how best to approach the day. It was exhilarating to walk to the Capital and start our meetings. I was a bit disappointed that we were unable to meet with our state representatives, but we had wonderful conversations with their aids!

Participation in this program greatly affected my confidence in sharing my voice. Even if you are nervous or do not feel it is an opportunity for you, but are truly passionate about international education I encourage you to jump in and go for it! It was truly an adventure that I will remember. On Wisconsin!

