

October 6, 2009
PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release by Springwood School



Springwood School Junior, Calem Bendell, Participates in the
National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, DC

Calem Bendell, a junior at Springwood School, recently returned from our nation's capital where he was one of 325 students nationwide to attend the 2009 Fall Session of the National Young Leaders Conference. Calem is the son of Dr. and Mrs. James Bendell of LaGrange. The National Young Leaders Conference offers top students from across the United States the opportunity to discuss current events and leading issues with national leaders and instructs promising students in a hands-on, experiential atmosphere while preparing them for a lifetime of leadership.

The theme of the conference was *The Leaders of Tomorrow Meeting the Leaders of Today*. Calem first engaged in an "If I Were President" simulation. He took on the role of Secretary of State in the fictional administration. In his role, Calem tackled a foreign policy crisis over a conflict between Russia and the United States. Next, in a "Judicial Review" simulation, he took on the part of an Attorney defending Arizona in Johnson v. Arizona. Additionally, in a model "Congress Simulation", Calem was chosen as the Chairperson for a caucus working to amend a bill. The conference also included trips to some of Washington, D.C.'s most honored and moving memorials: the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, as well as to Capitol Hill.

Through interaction with Cabinet secretaries, members of Congress, diplomats, lobbyists, and journalists, Calem and others received experience and guidance that cannot be found in textbooks. Calem has been invited to return and try out to be the keynote speaker for the Junior National Youth Leadership Program. Congratulations to Calem for representing Springwood School and his community at the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C.