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**Harrisburg Academy Student Selected to Attend National Youth and Government Conference**

WORMLEYSBURG, PA – Shawky D. '19 was recently selected as one of 10 delegates from the state of Pennsylvania who will attend the YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs, in Black Mountain, North Carolina in July. This conference is an extension of state Youth and Government, or YAG, programs and is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. At the conference, Shawky and other participants will have opportunities to gain awareness of national issues and concerns in government and to increase understanding of the federal government in relation to state, national, and international affairs.



“YAG is important to me because it is an opportunity for youth to have a voice in an environment where that isn’t always accepted,” Shawky said. “For us to be able to draft legislation on things that matter to us, it shows the people around us how pressing these things are to the emerging generations.”

Although the honor of attending the conference is typically reserved for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, Shawky created this opportunity for himself, as a 10<sup>th</sup> grader, through his successful year regionally in Youth and Government.

This year alone, he was awarded the Advisor Award by the Pennsylvania YMCA for having a consistent belief system and organizing more than 400 hours of volunteer work for the local delegation. As Senate majority leader for the YAG Liberal Party (in his first year serving in the Senate), Shawky introduced a bill that covers hospital cost transparency. The bill passed both the Senate and Committee unanimously, then with a vote of 122-2 in the House of Representatives. It was later signed into law by the governor of Youth and Government.

Youth and Government is a statewide civic education and leadership development program in which YMCAs, schools, and community organizations involve students in hands-on learning experiences. YMCA Youth and Government allows middle and high school students to experience the excitement of our state government, both legislative and judicial, in action.

Established in 1784, Harrisburg Academy is the 17<sup>th</sup> oldest non-public school in the nation and Harrisburg’s only independent school. Our coed, diverse school community inspires students from age three through 12<sup>th</sup> grade by providing an academically challenging and globally minded liberal arts education focused on dynamic classroom experiences, strong student outcomes, and a commitment to character development. The Academy proudly stands as the

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first school in the greater Harrisburg area to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and merit scholarship.

For more information about Harrisburg Academy please visit our website at [www.HarrisburgAcademy.org](http://www.HarrisburgAcademy.org) or contact Miranda Connelly at 717-763-7811 or via email at [connelly.m@harrisburgacademy.org](mailto:connelly.m@harrisburgacademy.org).

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