

# CHIPMAN, SCHMIDT PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNOR'S STUDENT LEADERSHIP FORUM



BOLIVAR,  
Mo. –  
Southwest  
Baptist

University's Sarah Chipman and Ethan Schmidt were two of 98 college students nominated to represent their schools during the 33rd annual Missouri Governor's Student Leadership Forum on Faith and Values on Feb. 14-16, 2020.

Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft welcomed students to the annual forum created by his father, former Missouri Gov. and 79th U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft. The three-day Leadership Forum on Faith and Values encouraged these students by challenging their decision-making, values and belief systems using the platform of servant leadership. The forum also addressed character development in these men and women.



"The Missouri Student Leadership Forum is a great opportunity for those who are currently leaders at their school or plan to be leaders in the future," said Ethan Schmidt, a political science and history major from Richland." One part of the conference that was especially valuable to me was when we were placed into small groups for the duration of the weekend and discussed moments in our life of great vulnerability that helped us become stronger leaders going forward."

Student leaders studied the principles of reconciling relationships, standing for truth and loving others as they love themselves. The Missouri Governor's Student Leadership Forum challenged students' character development and encouraged them to reflect on their own decision-making skills, values and belief systems. The forum's guiding principle is teaching students to embrace altruism rather than egotism.



"I was a little nervous going to the conference since I am a biology major and do not know a lot about politics," said Sarah Chipman, a biology major from Gladstone. "However, I had a great time and the conference related to all kinds of majors and showed how we can integrate faith and leadership into all different types of careers. I loved meeting students from across the state and discovering new ways of leadership that I can use at SBU."

During the forum, Chipman and Schmidt attended the Governor's Prayer Breakfast with Gov. Mike Parson and First Lady Teresa Parson at the Governor's Mansion. They also attended the 2020 Legislative Inaugural Ball and heard from speakers, including Rebecca Welsh, founder of HALO, a nonprofit organization supporting homeless and at-risk children; John Stroup, minister at Freeway Ministries, who devotes his life to helping individuals overcome life struggles; Freda Boateng, senior administrative assistant for admissions and financial aid at New York Law School and a freelance poet; Ramesh Balayar, professor of Global Resources, Poverty, Sustainable Development and Environmental Sociology at Iowa State University; Bob Priddy, retired news director of MissouriNet; Lethia Owens, author and branding expert; and Missouri State Reps. Kevin Windham and Travis Fitzwater.

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