

Grasping the Future in Silicon Valley

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This summer, senior Andy Tabar spent fourteen days, July 26th to August 4th in San Jose, Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Santa Cruz, and Hollywood, California. He met movie stars John Cho and Kal Penn (Harold and Kumar from "Harold and Kumar Go To White Castle") during a radio interview. He met Mr. G. Scott Hubbard, the director of the Mars program, and visited loads of colleges in the California area. "I had the best time of my life there," Tabar says. How are all these things connected and how did Andy accomplish all this in one summer, while most guys were busy painting houses or working at a grocery store? The answer is easy, Andy attended the National Youth Leadership Forum in California, where he and about 1,600 other students spent time visiting colleges as well as hearing speeches from large corporate CEOs, public speakers, and wealthy entrepreneurs. During this Forum, he learned more about ethics, communicating with others, conflict resolution, working cultures, future solutions, and crisis management.

All and all, what better way is there to prepare for college and life than to travel to California, the place of innovation, and learn from the wealthy leaders of this country. Even though there may be a strong "punk rock, anti-corporation" sentiment among some students at St. Edward, only a fool would miss an opportunity like this, because the speakers at the Forum are the big winners in society, from a monetary perspective. Andy strongly encourages all students interested to check it out. His personal response to the Forum was that, "I had the best time of my life there." "1,600 kids that are just like me," he said, gathered at the Forum.

Tabar wanted to go this summer so much, that he got sponsors from fourteen local businesses to go. That is dedication, as most students do little more than sit around and play Halo and video games all day during the summer. The future is near though, and Andy encourages all interested to contact him about it.

-- The Edsman, St. Edward High School Newspaper