

# Looking Forward

Ryan Blackburn | *Weekly Report 9/25 - 10/1*

With a desire to understand more of the foundation elected officials create for themselves before their election, I set out to expand my professional connections this week and build on formal discussion skills to begin realizing the pathways towards political representation. Often underlined in these actions, the common principle of the future's potential imprinted a true sense of direction for me as I exposed myself to the various opportunities available to one expressing interest in public policy.

In an attempt to further my concept of the general path many take towards a career in the political field, I prepared and met with Mr. Adam Plunk, a business partner and attorney of Plunk Smith, this week and learned of the importance of a truly worldly perspective. From the interview, I became more cognizant of the base elected officials maintain before election and realized the second-to-none benefits of analyzing a situation from a plethora of viewpoints. Indeed, the discussion with Mr. Plunk created an air of optimism concerning the potential one can attain from the resources offered to them from post secondary education and professional outreach. This experience has fostered within me a drive to learn more about the establishment of one before ascension to public office and to honor the value of educated stances on key issues.

From this guidance on future decisions on postsecondary education and character development, I have become much more aware of the attributes necessary to represent constituents in American office. I hope to utilize these lessons to build more charismatic leadership qualities as I expose myself to greater audiences and political opportunities.