

Sophia Truex  
Crested Butte

**Archer, Celeste**

---

**From:** Archer, Celeste  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 19, 2019 2:39 PM  
**To:** Archer, Celeste  
**Subject:** Crested Butte

Dear Colorado State Legislature,

The Colorado Student Leadership Institute was an experience that impacted my life for the better, and one that I hope many other kids will get to experience as well. I went last summer in July of 2018, and my sister went in the summer of 2016. When I was applying for COSLI, I was nervous because I was committing to a month away from my family. However, this experience that started out with my nervousness turned into an amazing adventure that I created a new family in. This camp helped me grow as a student, as a leader, and also as an individual in so many ways, and I am immensely grateful for that.

The town that I live, Crested Butte, is not very diverse. COSLI gave me a chance to connect with wonderful people that I might not have otherwise met. Each one gave me a new insight and perspective towards life, and it was amazing to experience so many ways of thinking and viewing the world. My roommate was someone with completely different experiences, ethnicity, and religion than me, and she became one of my best friends at COSLI. She still inspires me every day, and I have learned so much from her. We've kept in touch and try to call or text as often as possible, and I know that without COSLI there is no way I would have met this amazing human that I am privileged to call my friend.

COSLI gave us the opportunity to respect different opinions through discussing hard topics that don't come up in daily life, such as racial slurs and oppression, why some say the pledge of allegiance and why others do not, and homelessness. I met people with extremely diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, and political views, and I grew in respect for all of those people. COSLI allowed me to connect with these people, expand my views of other cultures, and see the views of others in a safe and wonderful environment.

Additionally I learned extremely valuable educational lessons and skills through the work and lectures I witnessed during my time at COSLI. This year I am taking a workload that is much harder than my freshman year, and I believe that COSLI helped me build study skills that have impacted me positively and have helped me in my AP and honors classes. I learned how to take better notes during the lectures, how to manage my time better, and how to do things such as create my resume that will help me senior year and this summer while I am searching for jobs.

This opportunity allowed me to grow as a leader as well through the complicated and self directed tasks that we were assigned, and it helped us work together and know when to ask for help and when to work something out ourselves. We got to create a business, ours called Tied Up, and we each had different tasks that we were strong at. We learned to work together and how to all step up as leaders, and COSLI was the fuel for this fire of creativity.

Overall, COSLI has impacted many aspects of my life for the better, and I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity. I hope that future students will be able to experience this as well, because it helps create the intelligent, independent, and confident youth that we need. Thank you for reading my letter and I hope COSLI will be a program that lasts to impact other kids as it has impacted me.

Sophia Truex