

THE WEEKLY WORD

HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DIVINITY

2016 DC Interfaith Leadership Summit Reflection By Jack Gordon, Lead Organizer

A divinity school at an institution nicknamed ‘The Mecca’ felt like a perfect venue to host an interfaith summit. As I walked the halls of HUSD and the law school with student government president Terence Mayo last fall, it was clear this place would provide the inspiration and welcome we sought for our much-anticipated gathering of local Millennial leaders.

The DC Interfaith Leadership Summit, now in its fourth year, is a program of the InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington. Its goal is to provide a space for emerging leaders from diverse backgrounds to meet with peers, share their experience, and learn from one another.

Our generation is the most interconnected in history; however in order to create a stronger sense of inclusivity and pluralism in our communities, we must be strategic and intentional about building intercultural, interracial and interreligious relationships. We conceived this summit to be a catalyst for collaboration between people doing similar work within parallel religious organizations, whether as clergy, ministry leaders, activists, etc. And we see there has been a terrific response to this opportunity: at our first summit, we had almost 100 participants; this year we had over 200!

Alongside sessions on environmental conservation, prayer traditions, religious liberty and more, current and former Howard students led packed discussions on creating messaging for activism and working for racial justice.

We hope to build on this strong partnership with HUSD and bring our interfaith summit back again next year! I’ve also been thinking about divinity school as an option to further my own education as an interfaith activist... so save a seat for me in class!



Photo of Torren & Deep By. Damel Dieng

Photo of March Wood and Rashid Hughes By Damel Dieng

