



PENNSYLVANIA AVE



# West Los Angeles College Dental Hygiene Tour The White House

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July 2015 was a historic time for West Los Angeles and the Dental Hygiene Program. Joe Biden visited West LA College in February 2015, and invited Carmen Dones, students, and faculty to tour the White House. Over 50 faculty, students, graduates, and alumni took him up on this offer, and flew to Washington DC in July to take a private tour inside the ever famous White Mansion. With this first class tour, we were also invited to meet with some of our ADHA legal teams and representatives.

Hi Im Rachel Richards, President of West Los Angeles College Class of 2016 and ADHA Representative. I want to share my experience of meeting Joe Biden, Vice President of the United States, and touring the White House.

First stop of the trip, we were invited to the McDermott Will & Emery building where we were welcomed by OUR legal team that oversees ADHA in Washington which included, Ann Battrell, MS, ADHA Chief Executive Officer; Jill Rethman, RDH, BA, ADHA President; Lin Sarfaraz District XI Trustee; Karen

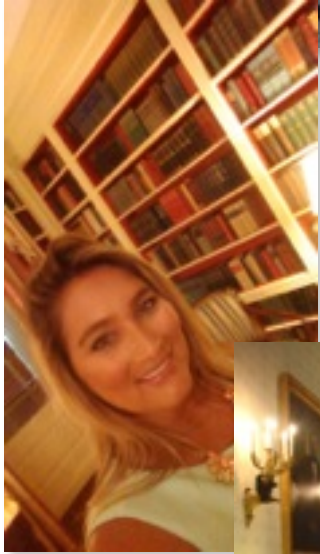


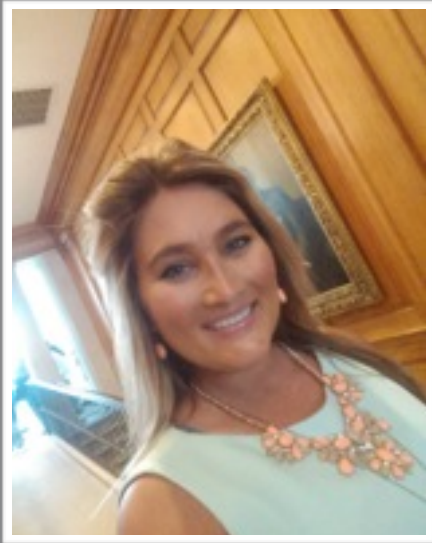


Sealander, Legal Counsel; and Ann Lynch, ADHA Division Director Governmental Affairs. We were given great insight on the importance of AHDA and legislation. Ann Lynch hyped us up with her motivating stories and prepared us for the White House. Meeting these top AHDA representatives really fires my already existing passion for the field of dental hygiene.

Next stop, the White House. We arrived in the afternoon at the White House greeted by Joe Biden's assistant, a former serviceman. The White House was crawling with Secret Service as President Obama and Vice President Joe Biden were meeting with the Prime Minister of Ukraine. They were in the Green Room, just before we entered the room on our tour. We were sequestered in the White House Library by secret service as the President and Vice President passed by. While in the library, we learned of the multiple fires of the House and how they rebuilt it. You can feel the lineage of presidents, our leaders and their families who lived here before. The walls are covered with former Presidents and their First Ladies. We learned of the newly designed dining area, personally designed by Michelle Obama herself. My favorite room is the Blue room. Everything is blue including the chairs, walls, curtains, carpet, ceiling and accents. The couch restored by Jacqueline Kennedy, was located in a Detroit auto shop. This room is where they place the HUGE Christmas tree every year. Looking out the window, you can see the large front yard and many visitors taking pictures beyond the fence in the distance. On the opposite side of the Blue Room you can see the front door to the White house. In the hall way you can see the American Flag and the Presidential Flag, this is where the President gives his press conferences. Its very exciting to be standing in the exact spot of so many former presidents. Just to the right of the entrance door to the White House is the, "Private

Residence", which has a red stairway off limits to everyone, except the President and his family. This is where the residing family can enjoys moments alone. We could only take a picture at the stairs but couldn't go any further. After our tour, we were walked by Joe Biden's assistant down a long hallway which displayed many happy moments with the current President and his family, including Bo, the dog.





Rachel Richards in the entrance of the White House.

WOW what an amazing experience to be in Washington DC and Tour the White House. Being in the dental hygiene program at West Los Angeles College is an experience I will be forever be grateful for. Touring the White House and meeting with our AHDA legislators is memorable. A special thanks to my faculty and administrators who made this possible. This is me living my dreams!!!!

Rachel Richards

*Rachel Richards* ♥

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