Chris Filice

PDA Reflection Spring 2012

I attended the ACDA Eastern Conference in Providence, Rhode Island for my PDA this spring. I attended concerts, reading sessions, and informational sessions at the Conference, all of which provided with me with practical knowledge I will be able to use in the choral classroom. I was also able to network with choral conductors who are currently working in the eastern division, and other college students studying to become music educators. Attending the conference forced me to think outside the Westminster bubble, and allowed me to think about my future as an artist and a teacher.

Because I also attended last year’s national ACDA Conference in Chicago, I was able to compare my experience this year to my experience as a freshman. I found myself better equipped to think critically about the information presented to me at this year’s conference. I was able to listen to choirs and decide what I liked and disliked about their sound. I found myself analyzing the gesture of conductors, and truly seeing for the first time how gesture can influence sound positively and negatively. I also thought critically about programming and repertoire choices, and had theoretical and practical justifications for my opinions. In my time at Westminster, I hope to continue to use the ACDA conference as an opportunity to track my growth as music educator.

