UNITED STATES SENATE
★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★
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TWO OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM EACH STATE WILL BE AWARDED A $10,000 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP AND ATTEND AN IMMERSIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM WITH THE NATION'S TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

August 3, 2021, WASHINGTON, D.C. — The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) is pleased to announce that the state departments of education nationwide have begun the selection processes for the **60th annual Washington Week to be held March 5 – 12, 2022.** 104 student delegates will be chosen to meet their U.S. senators and other government officials during the comprehensive education, leadership and public service learning experience, and each delegate will receive a $10,000 undergraduate college scholarship. The 2021 Washington Week was held online due to the pandemic, and a decision regarding the 2022 program being held in person or online is to be determined.

The USSYP was created by Senate Resolution 324 in 1962 as stated in supporting Senate testimony from that year, "to increase young Americans' understanding of the interrelationship of the three branches of government, the caliber and responsibilities of federally elected and appointed officials, and the vital importance of democratic decision making not only for America but for people around the world."

This extremely competitive merit-based program brings two high school juniors and seniors from every state, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity, to Washington, D.C., or into an online forum, for an intensive week-long study of the federal government and its leaders. The state departments of education throughout the country select the students through a rigorous nomination and selection process. The $10,000 undergraduate college scholarship is given to each student in the name of the United States Senate, with encouragement to continue coursework in history, government and public affairs. Military officers who serve as elite chaperones and mentors to the student delegates throughout the week are also competitively selected through the Office of the Secretary of Defense, representing one of the longest standing partnerships between a national youth program and the Department of Defense. The Hearst Foundations have fully funded and administered the program since inception; no government funds are utilized.

Senator Christopher A. Coons of Delaware will serve as the 2022 USSYP Democratic Co-Chair and Senator Susan M. Collins of Maine, a 1971 USSYP alumna of Maine, will serve as the 2022 Republican Co-Chair. The full USSYP Senate Advisory Committee consists of the vice president of the United States and the Senate majority and minority leaders who annually serve as the program's Honorary Co-Chairs; two senators, one from each party, serving as acting Co-Chairs who each have keynote speaking roles, and an eight-member bipartisan senate panel, four senators from each party, who lend their names in support. Serving on the Advisory Committee for the upcoming program are: Senator Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico, Senator Jeffrey A. Merkley of Oregon, Senator Tina Smith of Minnesota, Senator Mark R. Warner of Virginia, Senator Mike Braun of Indiana, Senator Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia, Senator James M. Inhofe of Oklahoma, Senator M. Michael Rounds of South Dakota.

(more)

In addition to outstanding leadership abilities and a strong commitment to volunteer work, the student delegates generally rank academically in the top one percent of their states among high school juniors and seniors. Alumni of the program continue to excel and develop impressive qualities that are often directed toward public service. Among the many distinguished alumni are: Senator Susan Collins, the first alumnus to be elected U.S. senator currently serving in her fifth term; current Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, the first alumnus to be elected Cabinet secretary, Jaime Harrison, current chairman of the Democratic National Committee; former Senator Cory Gardner, the second alumnus to be elected to the U.S. Senate and the first to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; former Chief Judge Robert Henry, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit; former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, the first alumnus to be elected governor; former Ambassador to West Germany Richard Burt, and former presidential advisors Thomas "Mack" McLarty and Karl Rove. Additional notables include Rogan Kersh, provost of Wake Forest University; former Lt. Governor of Idaho David LeRoy; former President of the Progressive Policy Institute Robert Shapiro; and many military officers, members of state legislatures, Foreign Service officers, top congressional staff, healthcare providers and university educators.

The program agenda routinely includes meetings with senators, the president, Cabinet secretaries, a justice of the Supreme Court, senior members of the national media and other key policymakers. Each speaking event incorporates lengthy and detailed question and answer sessions that are closed to the media. This high-level exposure is precisely what fuels and sustains the delegates' commitment to making a difference in their country, communities, and schools.

The delegate selection is administered by each state's chief school officer in cooperation with high school principals. Delegates must be juniors or seniors and elected or appointed student officers for the 2021-2022 academic year and they must reside in the state where they attend school. Eligibility considerations may also be made for student representatives elected or selected (by a panel, commission or board) to district, regional or state-level civic or educational organizations where the delegate is serving a constituency in a high-level leadership position for the entire academic year.

Names of students selected will be formally announced in early January 2022. Interested students should contact their high school principal, school counselor, history or government teachers or the selection administrator for their state. Application deadlines vary by state, and specific information can be located on the state-by-state drop-down menu on the USSYP website.

The 2022 program brochure with detailed rules and additional information about the selection process may be accessed on the USSYP website www.ussenateyouth.org.

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