JOY HOFMEISTER
STATE SUPERINTENDENT *of* PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

June 24, 2016

Dear Counselor:

The members of the United States Senate and the directors of The Hearst Foundations have announced the annual United States Senate Youth Scholarship Program. Two students from each state, the District of Columbia, and Department of Defense Education Activity will receive a $10,000 scholarship and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the week of March 4-11, 2017.

The students will be immersed in government activities throughout their stay in Washington. They will be greeted by senators, cabinet members, officials of the Departments of State and Defense, and others. The students will also have the opportunity to visit the Senate, House of Representatives, Supreme Court, Pentagon, and various Smithsonian museums.

Officially, the competition begins in September and is limited to juniors and seniors who are currently serving in any one of the following student government offices:

a. student body president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer
b. class president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer
c. student council representative
d. student representative elected or appointed to a district, regional, or state level civic or educational organization

Each student must be a **permanent resident** of the United States and currently enrolled in a public or private secondary school located in the state in which either one of his or her parents or guardians legally resides. The only requirement in accepting the scholarship is that students must, within two years after high school graduation, enroll at an accredited United States college or university, pledging to include courses in government or related subjects in their undergraduate program.

Attached with the email you received, there is information explaining how your school may participate and a brochure stating the objectives, rules, and scholarship regulations. Your principal must complete the enclosed form with the names of the students who will represent your school and return it to the Office of Curriculum and Instruction by Friday, September 16, 2016. Please direct your students to report to the examination site you have chosen on Saturday, October 1, 2016. There will be no further correspondence to remind you or your students of the examination date and site.

Please ask your teachers to provide you the names of qualified students to take advantage of this opportunity to go to Washington, D.C. to meet and hear the leaders of our country.

Sincerely,

Jeanene Barnett

Dr. Jeanene Barnett
Executive Director, Curriculum and Instruction
Oklahoma State Department of Education

DB:JB
Enclosure

2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4599 • (405) 521-3301 • Joy.Hofmeister@sde.ok.gov

UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL WASHINGTON WEEK ★ MARCH 4-11, 2017 ★

104 STUDENTS WILL BE SELECTED FOR A WEEK-LONG GOVERNMENT AND LEADERSHIP EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL AND A $10,000 UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP.

The United States Senate unanimously passed a resolution in 1962 creating the UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM (USSYP), a national initiative to provide a yearly opportunity for talented young people with demonstrated leadership abilities to deepen their understanding of America's political processes and strengthen their resolve to pursue careers in public service.

The USSYP brings the highest-level officials from each branch of government together with an outstanding group of high school students — two high school juniors or seniors from each of the fifty states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) — during an intensive educational program week held in Washington, D.C. The program is merit-based and highly competitive. Each student will also receive a $10,000 undergraduate college scholarship with encouragement to pursue coursework in history and political science. Now in its fifty-fifth year, the program has been fully funded since inception by THE HEARST FOUNDATIONS as an enduring commitment to preparing young people for citizenship and leadership in our participatory democracy. More than 5,500 strong, USSYP alumni serve the country in many ways.

THE PROGRAM

THE 55TH ANNUAL UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM WASHINGTON WEEK WILL BE HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C. MARCH 4–11, 2017.

Delegates will hear major policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, officials of the Departments of State and Defense and leaders of other federal agencies, as well as participate in a meeting with a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and the president of the United States. Each session includes an in-depth question and answer period.

The Hearst Foundations will pay all expenses for Washington Week including transportation, hotel and meals. The Department of Defense (DoD) annually provides competitively selected men and women officers to serve as mentors and chaperones for the student delegates, and a registered nurse, licensed physician and professional security team are in place at all times throughout the week.

USSYP alumni have become leaders in government, law, business, education, journalism, the military, medicine, health care, and many other fields. Alumni serve as elected and appointed officials at all levels of government including two current United States senators, a current governor, former senior political advisors to the president of the United States, former ambassadors and federal judges, congressional staffers, outstanding teachers, entrepreneurs, respected journalists, distinguished physicians, college professors, senior partners of law firms, and presidents of major corporations. The commonality to all of their success is the desire to serve.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications are generally submitted in late summer and early fall and may be obtained from high school principals, school counselors or the state-level selection contact. All state selection contacts and deadlines are listed on the homepage of the USSYP website: www.ussenateyouth.org.
Application deadline dates vary by state.

HOW TO QUALIFY

Qualified junior or senior high school students must show demonstrated leadership through public service in elected or appointed positions in organizations that relate to government, public affairs, history and/or community service. They must be actively serving in qualified leadership positions for the entire 2016–2017 academic year.

Two student delegates and a first and second alternate will be selected from each state and the District of Columbia by the chief state school officer. The Hearst Foundations will provide $1,000 to each state-level department of education to assist with the selection expenses for the program, and will provide a rigorous public affairs examination that states may use in the selection process.

The DoDEA central administrative office will select the DoDEA delegates and alternates residing overseas. Military dependents who reside and attend schools in the U.S. shall apply for the program under the RESIDENCY ruling shown below, and represent the state in which they currently reside.

Alternate delegates will be selected as replacements if a primary delegate is unable to participate in Washington Week. If the primary delegate is unable to attend, The Hearst Foundations must be notified in advance. **Attendance during the Washington Week program is required to receive the financial scholarship;** appropriate disposition of scholarship funds will be determined by the program director in the event a primary delegate is unable to attend the program due to emergency circumstances.

Selection will be based on the student's outstanding abilities and demonstrated qualities of leadership in an elected or appointed high school student office for the entire 2016-2017 school year. A student who graduates high school at the close of the fall 2016 semester/quarter is not eligible to apply for the program.

1. Any high school junior or senior student is eligible for the program provided he or she has not previously been a delegate to Washington Week and has not received a USSYP scholarship.

The student is required to be actively serving in an elected or appointed capacity in any one of the following student government, civic or educational organizations during the entire 2016-2017 school year:

a. Student Body president, vice president, secretary or treasurer

b. Class president, vice president, secretary or treasurer

c. Student Council representative

d. Student representative elected or appointed (appointed by a panel, commission or board) to a local, district, regional or state-level civic, service and/or educational organization approved by the state selection administrator.

2. **Participation in academic clubs and/or educational competition programs or conferences do not qualify a student for the USSYP, although many students who qualify participate in such.**

   The positions listed below do NOT qualify the student for the program:

   - Attendance or officer position at Boys/Girls Nation/State summer conference
   - Member of the National Honor Society (serving as an elected officer for the organization for the entire school year is acceptable)
   - A founder or chair of a self-created group
   - A participant or officer in Mock Trial, Model U.N. or other academic club, conference or competition

3. **RESIDENCY:** Each student must be a permanent resident of the United States and currently enrolled in a public or private secondary school located in the state (including for these purposes the District of Columbia) in which at least one of their parents or guardians currently resides. Students other than DoDEA delegates must be residing in the U.S. during the 2017 spring semester to participate.

   Exceptions to the residency requirement will only be made in the following cases:

   a. Students from DoDEA overseas will represent the state(s) of which the parents/guardians are U.S. legal voting residents. Students attending DoD schools in the U.S. or students enrolled through U.S. military bases in local schools will represent the state in which their school is located.

   b. Students may reside in a state other than the state in which they attend school if they are enrolled in the only designated public high school available to them in a school district that legally crosses contiguous state borders through legal interstate agreement. Students in these schools shall make application to the program through the state where the high school is located and shall represent that state if selected.

RULES

1. **All students must agree to fully block both arrival and departure travel days to participate in Washington Week.**

2. **NO TOURS OR TRIPS WILL BE PERMITTED BY INDIVIDUAL DELEGATES WHILE TRAVELING TO OR FROM WASHINGTON, D.C. OR WHILE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THIS POLICY INCLUDES ANY OTHER OUTSIDE ACTIVITY, CONFERENCE, SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION OR EVENT OF ANOTHER ORGANIZATION WHICH IS CONDUCTED IN WASHINGTON, D.C. OR THE SURROUNDING AREA DURING THE TIME FRAME OF THE USSYP WASHINGTON WEEK.**

   All travel provided by The Hearst Foundations is round-trip only and scheduled within the time frames listed below:

ARRIVAL D.C.:

Saturday, March 4, 2017
between 6:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

DEPARTURE D.C.:

Saturday, March 11, 2017
between 5:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

3. **No arrangements for individual religious practices or services other than dietary guidelines will be made during Washington Week. This policy will be strictly observed from the time the student delegates arrive at the Washington area airports, train stations and program site until they return to their home sites.**

4. The chief state school officer from each state, the District of Columbia and DoDEA must submit in writing to The Hearst Foundations by **DECEMBER 1, 2016** the names of their two delegates and alternates. Upon state confirmation of delegates and alternates, the program requires each delegate to submit a statement of participation to be signed by parents or legal guardians. A full informational packet, including a copy of the program rules, travel policy and scholarship regulations and other details relating to the trip to D.C. will then be forwarded to each family.

5. It will be the responsibility of the parents or legal guardians to transport (at their expense) each delegate to the nearest commercial airport or train station that provides round-trip travel from their hometown to Washington, D.C. The DoD will provide round-trip transportation for the DoDEA delegates from their homes to Washington, D.C.

6. Each delegate will be the guest of the United States Senate throughout the program. Students are required to conduct themselves in such a manner as to be a credit to both the United States Senate and the USSYP.

7. The program does not allow any individual or group athletic activities outside of the hotel facility.

8. Rules related to the USSYP and scholarship award shall be construed, interpreted and applied by The Hearst Foundations, whose action and determination shall be final and binding.

SCHOLARSHIP

The Hearst Foundations believe it is in the public interest to encourage these outstanding young people to continue their educational development. The $10,000 undergraduate college scholarship award is subject to the conditions and requirements specified below. Additional detailed scholarship information will be provided to the delegates after Washington Week. Certificates representing the award will be presented to the delegates during their visit to Washington, D.C., often personally signed by their senators.

SCHOLARSHIP RULES

1. **The $10,000 college scholarship and attendance at the Washington Week program are one, inseparable award.** Delegates must participate in the Washington Week program in accordance with all program policies in order to receive the financial scholarship.

2. **The USSYP scholarship is designated for undergraduate college study only** at an accredited United States college or university. All students are encouraged to include history, political science or related subjects in the undergraduate program.

3. The $10,000 scholarship is designated for the specified student's education expense and must be used within four years after enrollment. No funds may be given directly to a student. The scholarship will be issued in either one single payment of $10,000 or partial payments of no less than $2,500 each.

4. Students attending military academies (U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Coast Guard) may draw the USSYP scholarship per the guidelines to purchase required military uniforms, books, computer equipment and other educational materials.

5. A student will automatically forfeit eligibility for a scholarship award by failure to abide by all rules and requirements pertaining to the program and the scholarship or in the event of misconduct as a delegate to the United States Senate Youth Program.

UNITED STATES SENATE
★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★

EDUCATION · LEADERSHIP · PUBLIC SERVICE

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UNITED STATES SENATE RESOLUTION 324

In 1962, Senate Resolution 324, submitted by Senator KUCHEL (for himself and Senators MANSFIELD, DIRKSEN, and HUMPHREY), was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration, and, subsequently, unanimously approved by the United State Senate as follows:

WHEREAS the continued vitality of our Republic depends, in part, on the intelligent understanding of our political processes and the functions of our National Government by the citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS the durability of a constitutional democracy is dependent upon alert, talented, vigorous competition for political leadership; and

WHEREAS individual Senators have cooperated with various private and university undergraduate and graduate fellowship and internship programs relating to the work of Congress; and

WHEREAS in the high schools of the United States, there exists among students who have been elected to student body offices in their junior or senior year a potential reservoir of young citizens who are experiencing their first responsibilities of service to a constituency and who should be encouraged to deepen their interest in and understanding of their country's political process: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate hereby expresses its willingness to cooperate in a nationwide competitive high school Senate youth program which would give several representative high school students from each State a short indoctrination into the operation of the United States Senate and the Federal Government generally, if such a program can be satisfactorily arranged and completely supported by private funds with no expense to the Federal Government.

RESOLUTION 146. To amend S. Res. 324 of the Eighty-seventh Congress to provide for the participation of the Department of Defense education system for dependents in overseas areas in the Senate Youth Program.

Resolved, That S. Res. 324, Eighty-seventh Congress, agreed to May 17, 1963, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

Section 3. For the purpose of this resolution, the term "State" includes the Department of Defense education system for dependents in overseas areas.

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THE HEARST FOUNDATIONS
90 NEW MONTGOMERY STREET • SUITE 1212 • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94105-4504 • 415.908.4540 • 800-841-7048 ext. 4540 • (F) 415.243.0760 • USSYP@HEARSTFDN.ORG

Joy Hofmeister
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

2017 United States Senate Youth Program

Procedures for Participation

1. The principal of each high school may select students who meet the qualifications as outlined in Paragraph 1 in the brochure. **Complete and return the attached form to this office by Friday, September 16, 2016.**
2. Simultaneous examinations will be given on **Saturday, October 1, 2016**, at 10 a.m. at the six colleges and universities listed on the **U.S. Senate Youth Test Site** file. The test is similar to examinations frequently given to college students completing an introductory course in United States Government. (**NOTE:** This is the **only** date the examination will be administered.)
3. Please allow approximately two and one-half hours for actual testing. Students must provide their own writing materials. (A No. 2 pencil will be required.) Students will need to go to the college or university chosen by the principal and report to the instructor no later than 9:45 a.m.
4. College instructors will supervise the examinations and will send the tests to the State Department of Education for scoring. The students' scores will be sent to the contact person you designate on the enclosed form.
5. The ten students with the highest scores statewide will be invited to the State Department of Education in Oklahoma City on **Tuesday, November 22, 2016**, for an interview with a panel of judges. On the basis of the personal interviews, essays, and examination scores, the judges will select two student delegates to represent Oklahoma and a first and second alternate.
6. NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES WILL BE ALLOWED DURING TESTING. Please advise your students to leave all electronic devices in their vehicles.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Darren Bowens
Office of Instruction
Oklahoma State Department of Education
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105-4599
(405) 522-3219
Fax: (405) 521-2971
Darren.Bowens@sde.ok.gov

Joy Hofmeister
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

2017 UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

We will participate in the 2017 United States Senate Youth Program. The following students will represent this school:

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

These students meet the program qualifications and will take the examination at

_____
(Name of College or University)

on **Saturday, October 1, 2016**, at **10 a.m.** Please send further correspondence to:

_____
Title and Name of Contact Person Position E-mail Address

_____
Name of School Area Code School Phone

_____
School Mailing Address City or Town Zip Code

_____
Name of Superintendent Name of Principal

_____
Address of Superintendent (if different from school) City or Town Zip Code

_____
Principal's Signature

Return by **Friday, September 16, 2016,** to:

Darren Bowens
Office of Curriculum and Instruction
Oklahoma State Department of Education
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Suite 315
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105-4599
Fax: (405) 521-2971
Darren.Bowens@sde.ok.gov

TEST SITES

UNITED STATES SENATE
YOUTH PROGRAM
EDUCATION · LEADERSHIP · PUBLIC SERVICE

2016-2017
United States Senate Youth Program
Saturday, October 1, 2016
10 a.m.

Cameron University
Lawton
North Shepler, Room 524 - Map
Mrs. Lorinda Rogers

Northeastern Oklahoma State University
Tahlequah
Seminary Hall, Room 110 - Map
Dr. Iain Agnew

Northern Oklahoma College
Tonkawa
Library Administration Building - Map
Ms. Suzy Stergas

Northwestern Oklahoma State University
Woodward Campus
(Located at 2007 34th Street)
Woodward
Library
Dr. Deena Fisher

Southeastern Oklahoma State University
Durant
Russell Building, Room R223 - Map
Mrs. Elizabeth Watkins

Southwestern Oklahoma State University
Weatherford
Science Building, Room 100 - Map
Dr. Dan Brown

University of Central Oklahoma
Edmond
College of Liberal Arts, LA224/LA225 - Map
Dr. Jan Hardt

Joy Hofmeister
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Oklahoma State Department of Education