



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

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Honorable Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Joy Hofmeister

**DATE:** April 25, 2019

**SUBJECT:** United States Senate Youth Program

The State Department of Education recognizes Kate Carpenter of Stillwater High School and Nathan Dethloff of Lone Grove High School for being chosen to represent Oklahoma in the distinguished United States Senate Youth Program.

The United States Senate Youth Program, established in 1962 by U.S. Senate Resolution, is a unique educational experience for outstanding high school students interested in pursuing careers in public service. Students must demonstrate leadership abilities and receive a \$10,000 scholarship for undergraduate study. The United States Senate Youth Program is designed to deepen students' understanding of America's political processes through a visit to Washington, DC to experience the United States government in action.

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Attachments



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Questions about your state's delegates, alternates or state selection process:  
Ms. Brenda M. Beymer-Chapman at [Brenda.Chapman@sde.ok.gov](mailto:Brenda.Chapman@sde.ok.gov) or (405) 522-3523.

For general information about the United States Senate Youth Program:  
Program Director Ms. Rayne Guilford (800) 425-3632 or [rguilford@hearstfdn.org](mailto:rguilford@hearstfdn.org).

**Oklahoma Students Selected for United States Senate Youth Program  
Students Headed to Washington, D. C. and to Receive \$10,000 Scholarship**

**January 16, 2019, Washington, D.C.** —The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) announces that high school students Ms. Kate Noelle Carpenter and Mr. Nathan William Dethloff will join Senator James Inhofe and Senator James Lankford in representing Oklahoma in the nation's capital during the 57<sup>th</sup> annual USSYP Washington Week, to be held March 2 — 9, 2019. Kate Carpenter of Stillwater and Nathan Dethloff of Lone Grove were selected from among the state's top student leaders to be part of the 104 national student delegation who will also each receive a \$10,000 college scholarship for undergraduate study.

The USSYP was created by Senate Resolution 324 in 1962 and has been sponsored by the Senate and fully funded by The Hearst Foundations since inception. Originally proposed by Senators Kuchel, Mansfield, Dirksen and Humphrey, the impetus for the program as stated in Senate testimony is "to increase young Americans' understanding of the interrelationships of the three branches of government, learn the caliber and responsibilities of federally elected and appointed officials, and emphasize the vital importance of democratic decision making not only for America but for people around the world."

Each year this extremely competitive merit-based program brings the most outstanding high school students - two from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity - to Washington, D.C. for an intensive week-long study of the federal government and the people who lead it. The overall mission of the program is to help instill within each class of USSYP student delegates more profound knowledge of the American political process and a lifelong commitment to public service. In addition to the program week, The Hearst Foundations provide each student with a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship with encouragement to continue coursework in government, history and public affairs. Transportation and all expenses for Washington Week are also provided by The Hearst Foundations; as stipulated in S.Res.324, no government funds are utilized.

Kate Carpenter, a senior at Stillwater High School, serves as her school's Student Council president. She is a member of the State Superintendent of Education's Advisory Council and has attended American Legion Auxiliary Girls State and Girls Nation. She participates in Youth and Government as speaker of the house and lieutenant governor and was named outstanding presiding officer. Kate serves on the American Red Cross NWOK Board of Directors. She is also the school mascot - Peter Pioneer. She plans to major in communications with a minor in political science, and hopes to one day run for public office.

Nathan Dethloff, a senior at Lone Grove High School, serves as his school's National Honor Society president, a student council representative, a member of Ardmore Youth Leadership, a participant at Oklahoma Boys State, and a page for the Oklahoma House of Representatives. He is also a member of the basketball team, cross country team, and academic team. His hobbies include swimming, playing guitar, reading, fantasy football, and all things government. Nathan plans to study economics with an emphasis in pre-law.

(more)

## **UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM**

2019 Oklahoma Delegate Announcement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chosen as alternates to the 2019 program were Ms. Jenna Beth Steadman, a resident of Woodward, who attends Woodward High School and Mr. Ian Nathaniel McEntire, a resident of Duncan, who attends Duncan High School.

Delegates and alternates are selected by the state departments of education nationwide and the District of Columbia and Department of Defense Education Activity, after nomination by teachers and principals. The chief state school officer for each jurisdiction confirms the final selection. This year's Oklahoma delegates and alternates were designated by Mrs. Joy Hofmeister, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

While in Washington the student delegates attend meetings and briefings with senators, members of the House of Representatives, Congressional staff, the president, a justice of the Supreme Court, leaders of cabinet agencies, an ambassador to the United States and senior members of the national media. The students will also tour many of the national monuments and several museums and they will stay at the historic Mayflower Hotel in downtown Washington, D.C.

In addition to outstanding leadership abilities and a strong commitment to volunteer work, the student delegates rank academically in the top one percent of their states among high school juniors and seniors. Now more than 5,700 strong, 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; Senator Cory Gardner, the second alumnus to be elected U.S. senator and the first to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, the first alumnus to be elected governor; former Chief Judge Robert Henry, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit; former Ambassador to West Germany Richard Burt, and former presidential advisors Thomas "Mack" McLarty and Karl Rove. Additional notables include former Lt. Governor of Idaho David Leroy, Provost of Wake Forest University Rogan Kersh, military officers, members of state legislatures, Foreign Service officers, top congressional staff, healthcare providers and other university educators.

Members of the bipartisan U. S. Senate Youth Program 2019 Senate Advisory Committee: Senator Joni K. Ernst of Iowa, Republican Co-Chair; Senator Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, Democratic Co-Chair; Advisory Members: Susan M. Collins (R-ME), Steve Daines (R-MT), Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS), John Kennedy (R-LA), Michael F. Bennet (D-CO), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD). Each year, the Honorary Co-Chairs of the program are the vice president of the United States and the Senate majority and minority leaders.

**For more information please visit: [www.ussenateyouth.org](http://www.ussenateyouth.org)**

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