



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Questions about your state's delegates, alternates or state selection process:
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Indiana 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 Mr. Ishaan Khelan Modi and Mr. William Gabriel Schrepferman will join Senator Todd Young and Senator Mike Braun in representing Indiana in the nation's capital during the 57th annual USSYP Washington Week, to be held March 2 — 9, 2019. Ishaan Modi of Fishers and William Schrepferman of Zionsville 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.

Ishaan Modi, a senior at Hamilton Southeastern High School, serves as the Student Council vice president and also serves as a Board member and outreach coordinator for the Hamilton Southeastern Schools Foundation. Ishaan is also is the Hamilton Southeastern Democrats vice chair, and is an active varsity member of the Speech and Debate team. Ishaan has extended and applied his constitutional and governmental knowledge as a We the People participant and junior high mentor, and is a member of the National Honor Society and Fishers Mayor's Youth Council.

Will Schrepferman, a senior at Zionsville Community High School, serves as the executive president of the Student Council, president of the Model United Nations Club, and student technical director of Fall Musicals. He was the winner of the 2017 Congressional App Challenge for his work in creating the Zionsville Clubs App, in addition to being a National Merit semifinalist, a National AP Scholar, and the Zionsville recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award.

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Chosen as alternates to the 2019 program were Ms. Catherine Elizabeth Heiger, a resident of Evansville, who attends Signature School and Ms. Margaret Russ Barrett, a resident of South Bend, who attends Saint Joseph 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 Indiana delegates and alternates were designated by Dr. Jennifer McCormick, 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 alumna to be elected U.S. senator; Senator Cory Gardner, the second alumna 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 alumna 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
