

**SIXTY-FIRST ANNUAL WASHINGTON WEEK
WASHINGTON, D.C. | MARCH 4-11, 2023**

UNITED STATES SENATE ★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★



**SPONSORED BY THE UNITED STATES SENATE
FUNDED AND ADMINISTERED BY THE HEARST FOUNDATIONS**





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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 States 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

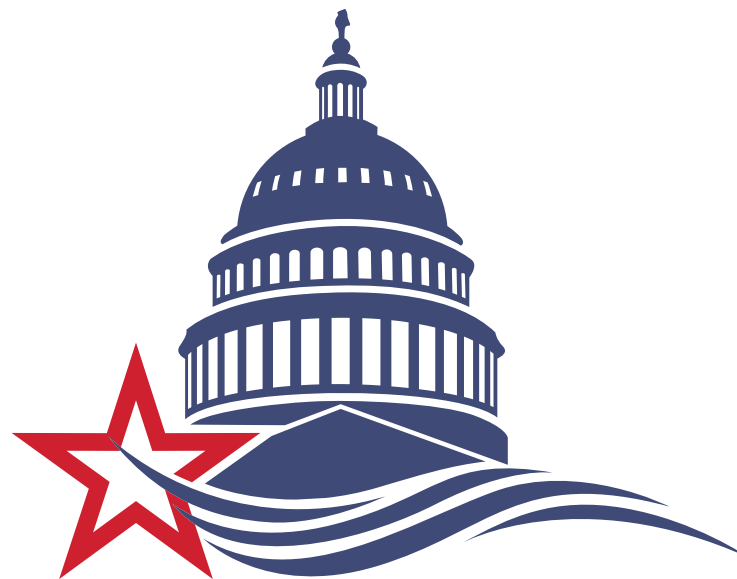
WHEREAS in the high schools of the United States, there exists among students who have been elected to student body offices in their junior or senior year a potential reservoir of young citizens who are experiencing their first responsibilities of service to a constituency and who should be encouraged 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.



UNITED STATES SENATE ★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★

EDUCATION • LEADERSHIP • PUBLIC SERVICE • RESPECT

The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) is an intensive week-long educational experience sponsored by the United States Senate that nurtures an important reservoir of student talent and energy toward the high purpose of public service.

The program was created by Senate Resolution 324 in 1962 as stated in supporting Senate testimony from that year, "to increase young Americans' understanding of the interrelationships 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."

The 61st annual Washington Week brought 104 outstanding high school students — two from every state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity — to Washington, D.C. to see the federal government up close and meet and interact with those who lead it. As the students develop a deeper commitment to public service, they also form intellectual and emotional bonds with their peers from across the nation.

Administered and funded by The Hearst Foundations since inception, the USSYP utilizes no government funds. The program is highly competitive and merit-based. Qualified students — those already serving in an elected or appointed capacity with excellent academic performance — are nominated by their teachers, principals and guidance counselors and are ultimately selected by their state departments of education. Delegates are each awarded a \$10,000 college scholarship with certificates often personally presented by their U.S. Senators, and are encouraged to continue coursework in history, government and public affairs.

HONORARY CO-CHAIRS



**Vice President
Kamala D. Harris**
President of the Senate



**Senator
Charles E. Schumer**
Majority Leader



**Senator
Mitch McConnell**
Republican Leader

SENATE CO-CHAIRS



John Hickenlooper
of Colorado



Shelley Moore Capito
of West Virginia

2023 UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

Senate Advisory
Committee

SENATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Tammy Baldwin
of Wisconsin



Cory Booker
of New Jersey



Bob Casey
of Pennsylvania



Jon Tester
of Montana



Marsha Blackburn
of Tennessee



Bill Cassidy, MD
of Louisiana



Tom Cotton
of Arkansas



Cynthia M. Lummis
of Wyoming

SPEAKER QUOTES

“The capacity for change is a gift, the ability to change is a skill, but the will to make change — that is a choice.”

Bayan Galal (USSYP CT – 2019)

“We value and believe that our job is to speak truth to power.”

Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines

“I don’t know anyone who has ever been in a war who did not profoundly believe that peace was a better option.”

Lise Grande, President and CEO
U.S. Institute of Peace

“Remember that you can be the good roots that help the branches flourish. When you grow, others grow. When you are at your best, others can be at their best.”

Education Secretary Miguel Cardona

“I want us to aspire to be a nation of kind neighbors, compassionate citizens, loving parents and courageous, resilient kids. That, to me, is a strong nation.”

U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy

“It’s the history we share as a community that pulls us together into a nation, and that is dependent upon a deep, rich, layered and detailed understanding of the past.”

Senate Historian Betty Koed

“Most people in the public eye are great talkers, but the real gift is to be a good listener. If you are not listening, you are probably not going to be a good leader.”

Senator Shelley Moore Capito

“Your government is a living, breathing creature. It needs caretakers.”

Senate Parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough

“You cannot just automatically have peace. You must learn it. You must cultivate it.”

Michael Yaffe, U.S.
Institute of Peace

“If you don’t know something, ask! If you are afraid of being embarrassed, eventually your ignorance will embarrass you.”

Justice Sonia Sotomayor

“You can make a big difference by looking around and seeing what you can do to make the lives of people around you better.”

Senator John Thune

“The people I work with are the unsung heroes of our republic, drawn not to fame and glory but to the quiet, professional, essential mission of supporting our institutions of government on good and bad days alike.”

Secretary of the Senate Ann Berry

“I hope you will leave this tremendous gathering with a new commitment to trying to follow the law that has made this country so very great and the envy of the world.”

Judge Robert Henry

“I am personally motivated by those who participated in the Civil Rights Movement. Remember what got us here – keep your eyes on that prize.”

Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Kristen Clarke

“If you forget your fellow man, you are a hollow individual.”

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley

“I beg of you to elevate facts, honesty and integrity because you are the ones who are going to be the next generation of leaders.”

Journalist Soledad O'Brien

“Attack ads are diminishing the entire product category of politics, democracy and what this country stands for. It’s corrosive. We’ve got to pull our democracy together.”

Senator John Hickenlooper



CONGRATULATIONS FROM

William Randolph Hearst III

Dear Delegates,

It was wonderful to be with you to rekindle the spirit and energy of the United States Senate Youth Program – in person again for the first time since 2019! Congratulations delegates on your excellent service representing your states, schools and communities. Your intellectual curiosity, eloquence and passion for making our world a better place was on full display during the exciting week that we commemorate in these pages.

The highest levels of leadership in all three branches of government gave generously of their time to meet with you and allow the opportunity to ask questions and converse in a personal way that is unique to this historic program. We send our deep appreciation to the 2023 Senate Co-Chairs, Senator John Hickenlooper of Colorado and Senator Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia. Without the help and support of our Senate Co-Chairs and their outstanding staff throughout the planning year, the program would not be possible.

In addition to the educational experience of the week, each delegate receives a \$10,000 college scholarship in the name of the United States Senate. The week in Washington and the college scholarship are an inseparable award, combining the encouragement and guidance given by the esteemed speakers with financial support to pursue college-level study of government, history and public affairs. The Hearst Foundations are honored to sponsor this enduring partnership with the United States Senate, the state departments of education nationwide and the Department of Defense.



(LEFT)
William
Randolph
Hearst III



Numbering more than 6,000, USSYP alumni continue to excel in prominent public service positions in all branches of government and in all sectors of society. Senator Susan Collins of Maine is the first delegate to be elected to the U.S. Senate; Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg is the first delegate to be appointed as a Cabinet Secretary; former Senator Cory Gardner of Colorado is the first delegate to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and the second to be elected to the Senate. Our alumni have taken many paths, in public and private sectors, and in military service — all imbued with the inspiration to serve the greater good.

Washington Week could not take place without the continued endorsement of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and the close collaboration with the Department of Defense. We also thank the Council of Chief State Schools Officers and all of the state-level education administrators, teachers and school counselors for their pivotal roles in the student selection process.

The program's mission shall continue as long as there are young people in America with a dedication to academic excellence and a desire to serve their country and their communities.

William Randolph Hearst III

William Randolph Hearst III

MARCH 4–11, 2023

61st Annual Washington Week

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

Arrival and Welcome Day
*Announcements and meeting
of Military Mentor Groups*

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

Historic overview tour of **GEORGE
WASHINGTON'S MOUNT VERNON**

Exhibition and Tours of **THE JOHN
F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS**

Formal Introduction of Military
Mentors and program welcome by
Dino Dinovitz, Executive Director
of The Hearst Foundations

MONDAY, MARCH 6

Robert H. Henry (USSYP OK-1971)
Former Chief Judge, U.S. Court of
Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

Sonceria Ann Berry
Secretary of the Senate

Elizabeth MacDonough
Senate Parliamentarian

Carla Hayden
Librarian of Congress

Betty Koed
Senate Historian

Sonia Sotomayor
Associate Justice of the
U. S. Supreme Court

Opening Dinner:

Senator John Hickenlooper
Democratic Co-Chair of the
61st Annual United States
Senate Youth Program

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

**THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION KEYNOTE
AND PANEL DISCUSSION**

Kristen Clarke
Assistant Attorney General
for Civil Rights

**STATE DEPARTMENT and
INSTITUTE OF PEACE
LUNCHEON**

Lise Grande
President and CEO,
U.S. Institute of Peace

Bill Russo
Assistant Secretary of State in the
Bureau of Global Public Affairs

Dereck Hogan
Principal Deputy Assistant
Secretary of State Bureau of
European and Eurasian Affairs

Michael Yaffe
Vice President,
Civic Engagement and
Scholarship U.S. Institute of Peace

Appreciation Remarks from
William Randolph Hearst III
President, The Hearst
Foundations

Tour and lecture:
THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Debra Wall
Acting Archivist of the
United States

Senate Co-Chair Dinner:

Senator Shelley Moore Capito
Republican Co-Chair of the
61st Annual United States
Senate Youth Program



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Miguel Cardona
U.S. Secretary of Education

Soledad O'Brien
Anchor and Producer,
Matter of Fact with Soledad O'Brien

61st ANNUAL SENATE RECEPTION

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

Vivek Murthy
U.S. Surgeon General

Senator John Thune (R-SD)
Senate Minority Whip

Rachel Skaar (USSYP MT – 2014)
Press Secretary for
Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO)

WHITE HOUSE TOUR

Ambassador Dinner:

Suzanne McCourt
Deputy Ambassador from
Australia to the U.S.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

Avril Haines
Director of National Intelligence

Stephanie La Rue
Chief of Diversity, Equity and
Inclusion Office of the Director
of National Intelligence

Wreath Laying Ceremony at
Arlington National Cemetery

Pentagon Visit:

Mark Milley
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs
of Staff

Ramón Colón-López
Senior Enlisted Advisor
to the Chairman

Mara Karlin
Assistant Secretary of Defense for
Strategy, Plans and Capabilities

Farewell Dinner and
Flag Folding Ceremony

Welcome to Washington!

Anticipation mounts as delegates travel from across the nation and overseas, until they are met at the local airports and train station and brought to the historic Mayflower Hotel. Meeting in person for the first time, students are welcomed by their Military Mentors, USSYP alumni and staff. This year the delegates heard from USSYP alum Bayan Galal (CT—2019), former Yale University undergraduate student body president, who spoke about building upon leadership skills in college and breaking boundaries in doing so.

After dinner, students gather for an in-depth orientation defining program rules, logistics and expectations. They learn new levels of protocol and decorum to fulfill their roles as public representatives of their schools, communities and states. Students are then formally introduced to their Military Mentors, 17 competitively selected officers from each service branch. Two Senior Mentors assist with the overall execution of the program, and 15 smaller groups of students are each assigned one Military Mentor to support and guide them through the exciting and demanding week to come.

The United States Senate Youth Alumni Association (ussyaa.org) has forged and maintained ties with thousands of program alumni. In addition to ongoing activities throughout the year, alumni gather during Washington Week for the association's annual dinner and board meeting.

(TOP LEFT)
USSYAA President
Amanda Patarino
(USSYP CO – 2012)

(TOP RIGHT)
Arrival Day Speaker
Bayan Galal
(USSYP CT – 2019)
Former Yale Student
Body President

DEMOCRATIC CO-CHAIR

Senator John Hickenlooper of Colorado

Create a Rising Tide That Raises All Ships



“Republicans and Democrats are trying to give back, at all levels of public service, with high ethical standards. They work hard, they are honest, and they are what make America what it is.”

Democratic Co-Chair
Senator John Hickenlooper

Senator John Hickenlooper of Colorado delighted the delegates with stories from his multifaceted past, counseling the delegates to immerse themselves in “real life” work and business experience before launching into politics. His own varied résumé includes education in creative writing and geology, as well as brew pub entrepreneur, mayor, governor, film actor and banjo expert. His instincts to work toward the greater good were honed as a successful businessman and local elected official. Whether devising a marketing plan that included his restaurant competitors in downtown Denver, or in deciding early on to run no political attack ads, he was guided by the principle that “A rising tide raises all ships.” He saw the pitfalls of political mudslinging through a business lens, saying “that diminishes the entire product category of politics and democracy — of what this country stands for. We’ve got to bring our democracy together.” Fact-based creative bipartisan solutions are his strategy. As governor during the horrific Aurora theater shooting, he responded with a plan for a national firearm safety board, modeled on the success of the National Highway Transportation Safety Board. “There may be two sides to the gun issue,” he opined, “but it’s one America. We’ve got to find our way to some common solutions.”



(LEFT) Senator Hickenlooper greets Colorado delegates Julia Hunt and Dana Ko

Enjoying dinner with the group, Senator Hickenlooper highlighted the importance of camaraderie: “Something magical happens when you eat, when you break bread,” he noted, hoping to bolster that same feeling among his colleagues in the Senate. Colorado delegate Dana Ko lauded the dynamic USSYP Co-Chair, offering his example as a road map. “Your journey from writing to entrepreneurship has taught us that a path with a diversity of interests can lead us to be better public servants.”





REPUBLICAN CO-CHAIR

Senator Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia

Remember to Always Look Up

Senator Shelley Moore Capito gazed appreciatively at her surroundings in the rotunda of the National Archives as she began. “Who gets to have dinner with the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution? They are all living documents, and they are living right here with us tonight.” She shared that she was proud to be speaking before America’s future leaders and told the students that a good approach is to work for a local official or candidate who champions issues that you believe in. The first female Senator in West Virginia history offered this advice: “Most people in the public eye are great talkers, but the real gift is to be a good listener. If you are not listening, you are probably not going to be a good leader.” She also counseled the delegates to “look up” both in the philosophical and pragmatic sense. “Remember to observe and appreciate your surroundings and make old fashioned eye-to-eye





(ABOVE) Acting Archivist Debra Wall addresses delegates in the McGowan Theater before dinner.

and voice-to-voice contact, because those are the ways that you will be able to cement your relationships with mentors and peers." Compromise is also key. The Senator shared her firsthand experience working with President Biden on the recently passed bipartisan infrastructure bill. "No one got everything they wanted," she said. "You must be willing to compromise. Refusing to work together out of principle just penalizes the whole country." Discussing the progress being made electing women leaders and her own role in history, Senator Capito relayed an expression she heard early on: "If you can see it, you can be it." West Virginia delegate Hank Phillips ended the evening noting that his home state deeply appreciates Senator Capito's "dedication to solving some of our country's most pressing issues in a bipartisan manner and steering the United States to a more perfect union," referencing an iconic phrase from the founding documents directly behind the podium.



(ABOVE) Senator Capito with West Virginia delegates Henry Phillips and Alissa Davis.



FORMER CHIEF JUDGE

Robert Henry (USSYP OK – 1971)

The Principles of the Enlightenment Holding True



(LEFT) Judge Henry with Oklahoma delegates Raven Owens and Tuqa Alibadi

“I hope you will leave this tremendous gathering with a new commitment to following the law that has made this country so very great and the envy of the world.”

Former Chief Judge
Robert Henry (USSYP OK – 1971)

Distinguished alum Judge Robert Henry’s kickoff speaking event has been a cherished tradition of the USSYP for nearly 20 years. The former Chief Judge opened the first in-person Washington Week Monday presentation since the start of the pandemic – and his message was hopeful. His long tenure at the highest ranks of the Judicial branch set the stage for the group visit to the Supreme Court later that day, and his former posts as Oklahoma state legislator and state attorney general further informed his perspective on government, politics and the law. He held aloft a copy of the book *Enlightenment Now* by Harvard psychologist Steven Pinker, encouraging the students to remember and commit themselves to the core principles upon which America was founded. Our founding leaders “were concerned with reason, science, humanism and progress,” and were not “held in lockstep with old ideas,” Judge Henry noted. An open-minded, multi-disciplinary thought process is needed now more than ever to tackle our nation’s challenges, he posited, pointing to Pinker’s data-driven thesis of the Enlightenment’s enormous historical success around the globe. Judge Henry discussed the bedrock role of the Judiciary in providing stability in uncertain times. “This country is planted thick with laws; most of them are good. I hope you will leave this tremendous gathering with a new commitment to following the law that has made this country so very great and the envy of the world.” Oklahoma delegate Raven Owens applauded Judge Henry in her closing remarks: “He has lived by the philosophy that public service is the rent you pay for the space you occupy.” Fellow delegate Tuqa Alibadi agreed: “He has proven to us the potential we all hold.”



(ABOVE) Justice Sotomayor with New York delegates Matthew Stevens and Isabella Klink

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

Sonia Sotomayor

Never Give Up Your Chance to Keep Fighting for Change

Sonia Sotomayor transformed many delegates' notions of meeting an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Her compassion and warmth instantly put the students at ease in the vaunted Supreme Courtroom as she moved from aisle to aisle, greeting them personally and inquiring about their home states and towns. Her life's trajectory, from a Bronx, New York, housing project raised by a single mother to attending Princeton University, informed her empathy for others, her understanding of injustice, and her desire to serve through the law. "The law seemed like the perfect way to serve, because it is the structure of how people relate to each other," she noted, emphasizing the personal fulfillment gained by a life of service. She advised the students to never be afraid to ask questions or think that doing so is a sign of weakness, telling them to ask successful people for help and guidance and remember, "There is a difference between ignorance and stupidity." The importance of maintaining civility at the Court and in life is paramount, she offered, saying "We must listen to each other's perspectives without labeling anyone – accept disagreement while seeing the goodness in each other." When asked what gives her hope, the first Hispanic and third woman to serve on the High Court cited awareness, fighting for what is right and the delegates themselves: "Don't let others rule you. Don't be a bystander in life. I know that someday one of you or someone like you will replace me, and that is enough for me."



SENATE OFFICERS

Sonceria Ann Berry and Elizabeth MacDonough



(LEFT) Secretary of the Senate Berry with Alabama delegates Stanley Stoutamire, Jr. and Ella Duus

(RIGHT) Senate Parliamentarian MacDonough

“Your government needs caretakers. New people with new reservoirs of talent to participate in the care of the living creature of government.”

Senate Parliamentarian
Elizabeth MacDonough

Senate officers provide the cornerstone and continuum of the legislative body, and the delegates met two of these groundbreaking public servants. Ann Berry served as a senior Senate staff member for more than four decades before being elected the first African American Secretary of the Senate in 2021, and Elizabeth MacDonough serves as the first female Senate Parliamentarian. Both passionately encouraged the students to continue their commitment to public service. “Our government is a living, breathing creature,” Ms. MacDonough said, “Most anyone can make government function, but it takes commitment, ideas, inspiration and innovation to make it thrive.” Secretary Berry advised not to “focus so much on a specific destination as on the journey itself. The journey is the choices you make, large and small, the people you encounter, famous and familiar, heroes and villains alike.” She described her staff colleagues as “The unsung heroes of our republic, drawn not to fame and glory but to the quiet, professional, essential mission of supporting our institutions of government on good and bad days alike.” Strengthening personal connections is key. “A lot of our job is listening,” Ms. MacDonough explained. People inherently “want to be heard.” “Nothing will help you bond with someone more than sitting around in a quorum call at four o’clock in the morning, and maybe on your third day in a row at four o’clock in the morning.” They both hoped that Washington Week would expose attendees to the wide range of public service pathways. “You may come away from this visit with a new or revised vision of what you want your educational focus or career path to be, and if that means federal service, well, that will be wonderful,” the Senate Parliamentarian concluded.

SENATE HISTORIAN

LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

Betty Koed & Carla Hayden

Dr. Carla Hayden, the 14th Librarian of Congress since 1802, welcomed the delegates to the Library's Madison Building. She defined librarians as "The original search engines – and the anchors in so many communities." Dr. Hayden, the first African American and first woman to hold the office, fielded questions on a range of subjects, including disinformation, book-banning and the digitization of media in the modern age, noting that efforts to ban books usually only serve to increase sales. Dr. Betty Koed, the first female historian of the United States Senate, began her address by defining the term: "History can be ever-changing. It is also your personal story. Everyone has a history, and each of us interprets our own past." Dr. Koed has worked to reveal a deeper, more complete history of both the Senate and the country. Early in her tenure, she noted the lack of female senators' photos showcased in her office. She added images of icons such as Senator Margaret Chase Smith. Investigating early Congressional records that had escaped destruction by the British in 1812, the heroics of Tobias Simpson, a Black Senate messenger, came to light. Prior to this research, it had been falsely assumed that there were no Black Senate employees until after the Civil War. "It's the history we share as a community that pulls us together as a nation," she said. California delegate Fiona Lu offered appreciation: "Dr. Koed's service teaches us both about the momentous victories and the ugly truths of history to understand who we are and the endless possibilities of who we can become."

(TOP TO BOTTOM)
Librarian of Congress
Dr. Hayden; Senate
Historian Dr. Koed





U.S. Institute of Peace and State Department Luncheon

The sun-drenched George P. Schultz Great Hall of the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) was the setting for Washington Week's annual luncheon focusing on diplomacy and foreign policy. USIP President and CEO Lise Grande welcomed the group with an overview of USIP's more than 300 peacebuilding initiatives worldwide, covering 19 conflict zones in 90 countries. "When I worked for the United Nations, I served on the front lines in 12 wars. I don't know anyone who has ever been in a war that did not profoundly believe that peace was a better option," she remarked. Numerous State Department and USIP officials joined the delegates over lunch to discuss the many facets of statecraft, global policymaking and careers in Foreign Service. State Department Ambassador Derek Hogan, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, and Dr. Michael Yaffe, vice president of the Middle East North Africa Center at USIP recounted their notable international experiences

as representatives of the United States abroad. The lengthy Q&A session included ideas about entering the diplomatic corps, the role of the U.N. Security Council in today's geopolitical environment, the rising influence of authoritarian governments and the conflict in Ukraine. Ambassador Hogan encouraged the delegates to pursue prestigious opportunities available in this field, such as the Pickering, Rangel and Payne Fellowships, and said, "As our president stated, we are in a global strategic competition between democracies and authoritarian regimes and autocracies. To work in diplomacy right now has never been more consequential."



(OPPOSITE) USIP President and CEO Grande
(TOP LEFT) Deputy Assistant Secretary Hogan with
Virginia delegates Saehee Perez and Lara Mohamed



Republican Perspective Lunch with Senator John Thune of South Dakota

and USSYP Alum on the Hill Rachel Skaar (USSYP – MT 2014)

Senator John Thune of South Dakota, the Senate’s assistant minority leader in his role as Republican Whip, jumped into discussion with the delegates with enthusiasm. “I am a believer that we need young people who not only have attributes that are necessary to do well in public life, but also the desire and sense of duty and responsibility. We must have people who are willing to roll up their sleeves, do the work and try to make this country stronger for future generations.” Regarding polarization, the senior Senator from the Mount Rushmore state urged delegates to maintain their principles as guardrails but to “search for common ground within those boundaries. You’ve got to be a good listener,” he advised. “You must diversify your sources of information to understand another side’s perspective, whether you agree or not, to find compromise.” The 2023 Alumni on the Hill speaker Rachel Skaar (USSYP MT – 2014), press secretary to Senator Michael Bennet of Colorado, spoke from the heart about overcoming “imposter syndrome” during Washington Week, in college and during her early career. She urged delegates to build needed confidence: “Each and every one of you have something so unique and valuable to bring to the table,” she assured, with a wide smile, an evident example of the power of positive thinking, talent and hard work.



(TOP) Senator Thune with South Dakota delegates Dustin Hermansen and Maxwell Lightfield

(ABOVE) USSYP Alum on the Hill Rachel Skaar with Montana delegates Lily Miller and Alec Wells

“Each of you has a superpower – use it to help others grow.”

Education Secretary Dr. Miguel Cardona

EDUCATION SECRETARY

Miguel Cardona

Dr. Miguel Cardona, the twelfth U.S. Secretary of Education, began his remarks by thanking the delegates for serving in the elected and appointed leadership roles that have improved their schools and communities. He encouraged them to continue developing an intuitive and inclusive leadership approach. “You can be the good roots that help the branches flourish. When you grow, others grow. All of you are going to have incredible opportunities to make a difference in very big ways, but don’t forget the power of recognizing the potential in others.” The child of immigrants, former elementary school teacher, and later, Connecticut’s Commissioner of Education emphasized the importance of cherishing the unique traits and talents in ourselves and in others. “I wish I could go back and tell 5-year-old me that bilingualism was my superpower, because back then I didn’t feel that way. What I didn’t know then was that it was a superpower that allows me to do more in my current job, in so many ways.” Secretary Cardona answered numerous questions ranging from the impact of COVID-19 on education, the importance of social-emotional learning and mental health support in schools, the need for greater multilingualism and multiculturalism in curricula, his goal to attract and retain high-quality teachers and how best to harness hybrid educational models for learning optimization. Commending the 2023 delegates, Secretary Cardona said: “I’ve seen what your generation can do. I’ve seen what you’re already doing, and that makes me very hopeful for the future of our country.”

(BELOW) Secretary Cardona with Connecticut delegates Sciana Vertusma and Cierra O’Sullivan





(ABOVE) ODNI Chief of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion La Rue

(BELOW) DNI Haines with Illinois delegates Anusha Nadkarni and Maisam Rajaie



DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Avril Haines

Avril Haines, the first woman to lead the U.S. Intelligence Community, described how her agency was formed in the aftermath of 9/11 with “the urgent need to bridge fault lines within our government and between foreign and domestic intelligence. We are better defended today against terrorist attacks because of that reorganization.” Her responsibilities include helping to prepare the President’s Daily Brief, a summary and analysis of the current security landscape for the commander in chief. Covering this vast array of issues is a highlight of her job. “I am constantly learning, every day, and that makes me feel alive, working alongside extraordinary professionals who are committed to protecting and serving the American people.” Maintaining objectivity is also essential. “We value and believe our job is to speak truth to power. Politicized intelligence simply reinforces preexisting beliefs and deprives the leaders of our country a foundation for developing sound policy.” She recognized that many of the delegates would soon begin their college and career paths and offered this: “We need people who can bring fresh perspectives and ideas. If you think you don’t have the right skills or interest to join the Intelligence Community, I think you may be surprised to learn what we do every day,” she said, noting that national security includes a focus on such diverse fields as climate change, global public health and emerging technologies. The students were able to ask many questions, of both Director Haines and Ms. Stephanie La Rue, ODNI chief of diversity, equity and inclusion, who joined the comprehensive presentation.





(ABOVE) Surgeon General Murthy with Florida delegates Maxton Torres and Brady White



“We are the generation of redeemers. This is our chance to get back to what really matters.”

U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy

U.S. SURGEON GENERAL

Dr. Vivek Murthy

U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy offered his vision for a new consciousness in America. “We need a new generation that is clear-minded and unapologetic about fighting for the core values of kindness, generosity, service and love. This is a generation defined by spirit rather than age, with a core commitment to recognizing that when we are at our best, all of us are lifted up.” He cited statistics about anxiety, depression and loneliness in America, especially among youth, positing that we are living in an “epidemic of loneliness” impacting performance in school, the workplace and civic engagement. Dr. Murthy delved into the intrinsic connection between mental and physical health, underlying his impassioned vision for the future. “We must aspire to be a nation of kind neighbors, of compassionate citizens, of loving parents and of courageous, resilient kids. To me that is a strong nation, one that increases the likelihood that we can all prosper, and one that serves as a beacon of light for other countries.” The leader of the Public Health Service and the “Nation’s Doctor,” Dr. Murthy has served as surgeon general under the past three presidents. He told the delegates much about his own life story and advised them to embrace uncertainty and display resilience. “Life will always be full of surprises. It will throw curveballs at you. Some of them will be delightful surprises. Some of them will be terrifying. But being open to those surprises, being open to where they take us can often make all the difference in the fulfillment we experience and the contributions we make.”

The Department of Defense



General Mark Milley welcomed the 2023 delegates to the Pentagon with these words: "There are three things you must develop: character, courage and competence. These will form your moral and intellectual core and help you face the crucibles of life." The 20th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the nation's highest-ranking military officer and principal military advisor to the president, Secretary of Defense and National Security Council, defined the soul of our nation. "You can draw a straight line from the Magna Carta through the Enlightenment to the U.S. Constitution," he said, "a document that is so extraordinarily powerful that it struck fear and shockwaves into the hearts of kings and queens, dictators and fascists, based on the idea of equality." Throughout his career, the Constitution has been his "North Star" he said, reminding the delegates that the military members surrounding them were willing to die to ensure its protections. General Milley acknowledged the constant process of forming a more perfect union, and concluded, "All that I ask of you is that you carry that forward and serve your country in some fashion." Arizona delegate Emma Curtright reflected on General Milley's remarks. "He really inspired a love for my country, for service and for my fellow man. He said, 'We take an oath to a document that represents an idea that all of us will be free and equal.' It doesn't matter what we look like, where we come from... things we can't control." Delegate Matthew Stevens of New York said, "General Milley's message of service above self and sacrifice for others truly resonated with me."



“You are charged with taking the Constitution forward and making a more perfect union.”

General Mark Milley



(OPPOSITE) General Milley

(TOP LEFT) Dr. Karlin with Louisiana delegates Margaret Moe and James Stratton

(TOP RIGHT) General Milley with Massachusetts delegates Alexandra Tokar and Jimmy Merino

(LEFT) SEAC Colón López with DoDEA delegates Kyung Joon Flannery and Olivia Kearley

Speaking next was Ramón Colón-López, the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the most senior enlisted service member in the Armed Forces. He combined policy expertise with sharp wit and quick humor, for a memorable interaction and generous time for questions and answers about all of the armed forces service branches. Dr. Mara Karlin, published author and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategies, Plans and Capabilities, gave the students a deep dive into military budget and strategic planning, and an overview of her work developing the National Defense Strategy. Dr. Karlin offered education and life advice, especially touting the benefits of being open to unexpected opportunities, using her own career path, beginning as a Congressional intern to her current position as a shining example.



The Department of Justice

Esteemed USSYP alumnus Robert Henry, former chief judge of the U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, told the students to “follow the law that has made this country great and the envy of the world.” An insider’s view of the law from the Executive branch was held the next day, when the group was hosted for a multifaceted educational event at the Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building. Seated in the Great Hall,

the students first heard from Librarian Robin Foltz, who described the history of the building and the magnificent Greco Deco artwork and design. She revealed nuances of the massive frescoes and portraits from the New Deal era depicting great codifiers of the law and allegories of the majesty of justice and perils of lawlessness. Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Kristen Clarke spoke next, beginning by stating the department’s mission: to uphold the rule of law, keep the country safe and protect civil rights. A lifelong civil rights lawyer who has spent her entire career in public service, Ms. Clarke relayed several of her ongoing priorities including combating hate crime and hate speech and ensuring voting rights so that “every American can cast a ballot free from discrimination and harassment.” She draws strength in her work from great figures in America’s Civil Rights Movement such as the late Congressman John Lewis and former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, whose words she quoted as inspiration: “Throughout human history, in every great endeavor, we have learned that it is only through seriousness of purpose and persistence that you win the day.” A panel discussion with several of the Department’s leading lawyers from the Housing and Civil Enforcement, Special Litigation, Criminal, Human Trafficking and Prosecution, and Educational Opportunities sections ensued, with members taking in-depth questions. Following the visit, Ella Duus of Alabama said, “This eye-opening experience has sparked a newfound interest in civil rights work, and I am now eager to explore this field during my time in college.”





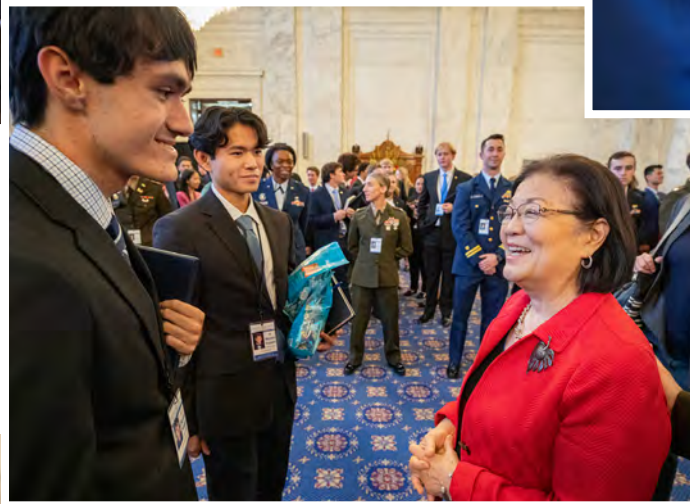
(OPPOSITE) Assistant Attorney General Clarke

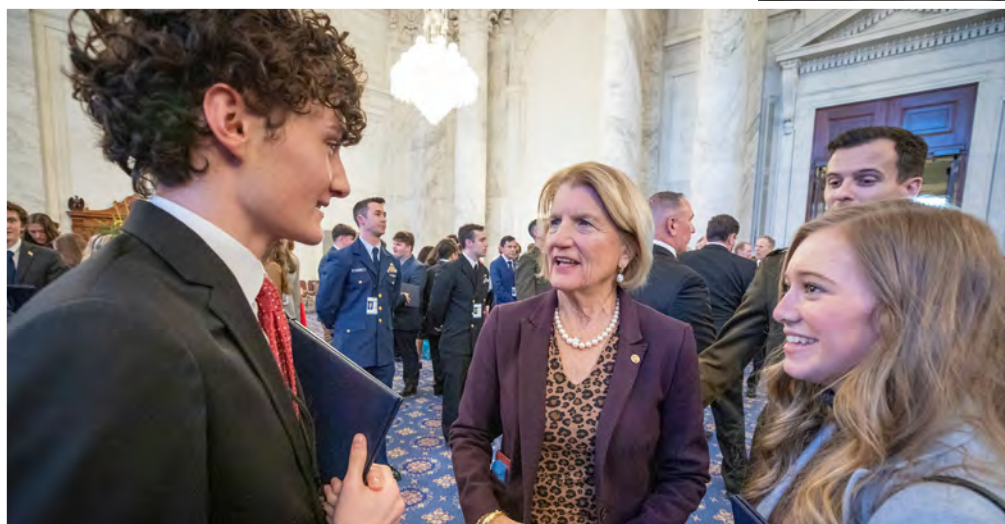
(ABOVE RIGHT) Department of Justice Speaker Panel (left to right: Maureen Johnston, Samantha Trepel, Stephanie Gyamfi, William Nolan)

(LEFT) Assistant Attorney General Clarke with Tennessee delegates Ella Paligo and Sheerea Yu



Honors from Their Senators









2023 Senate Reception Attendees

Sixty-nine senators participated in Washington Week 2023, either at speaking events or by attending the 61st annual USSYP Senate Reception, where they congratulated their student delegates and presented them with their \$10,000 college scholarship certificates.



Alabama

Senator Katie Britt with Ella Duus and Stanley Stoutamire, Jr.



Alaska

Senator Lisa Murkowski with Callia Fielding and Jasmine Trotter



Arkansas

Senator Tom Cotton with Ahilan Eraniyan and Hadia Choudhary



California

Senator Alex Padilla with Fiona Lu and Summer Sun



Colorado

Senator Michael F. Bennet with Julia Hunt and Dana Ko



Senator John Hickenlooper with Dana Ko and Julia Hunt



Connecticut

Senator Richard Blumenthal with Sciana Vertusma and Cierra O'Sullivan



Senator Christopher Murphy with Sciana Vertusma and Cierra O'Sullivan



Delaware

Senator Christopher A. Coons with Carl Rifino and Joshua Donophan



Florida

Senator Marco Rubio with Olivia Kearley, Maxton Torres and Brady White



Georgia

Senator Raphael Warnock with Jack Lakis and Luke Schofield



Hawaii

Senator Brian Schatz with Maverick Yasuda and Daniel Pruder



Hawaii

Senator Mazie K. Hirono with Maverick Yasuda and Daniel Pruder



Indiana

Senator Todd Young with Kerry Ao and Norah Wills



Senator Mike Braun with Norah Wills and Kerry Ao



Iowa

Senator Charles Grassley with Andrew Dong and Esha Bolar

2023 Senate Reception Attendees



Iowa

Senator Joni K. Ernst with
Andrew Dong and Esha Bolar



Kansas

Senator Jerry Moran with
Sukesh Kamesh and Madison Coyne



Kentucky

Senator Rand Paul with
David Daniel II and Heng Yang



Louisiana

Senator Bill Cassidy with
Margaret Moe and James Stratton



Maine

Senator Susan M. Collins
with Shawn Jiminez and
Natalie Emmerson



Senator Angus S. King
with Shawn Jiminez and
Natalie Emmerson



Maryland

Senator Chris Van Hollen
with Maja Durkovic and
Zachary McGrath



Massachusetts

Senator Edward J. Markey with
Jimmy Merino and Alexandra Tokar



Michigan

Senator Debbie Stabenow with Fayyaz Razi and Olivia Serio



Senator Gary Peters with Fayyaz Razi and Olivia Serio



Minnesota

Senator Amy Klobuchar with Eleanor Anderson and Sidarth Gazula



Senator Tina Smith with Eleanor Anderson and Sidarth Gazula



Mississippi

Senator Roger F. Wicker with Joshua Bowman and Nadia Harden



Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith with Nadia Harden and Joshua Bowman



Missouri

Senator Josh Hawley with Anushka Rawat and Sejal Sekhar



Senator Eric Schmitt with Anushka Rawat and Sejal Sekhar

2023 Senate Reception Attendees



Montana

Senator Jon Tester with
Alec Wells and Lily Miller



Senator Steve Daines with
Alec Wells and Lily Miller



Nebraska

Senator Deb Fischer with
Kristie Trinh and Jayden Speed



Senator Pete Ricketts with
Jayden Speed and Kristie Trinh



Nevada

Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
with Sarah Park and
Samantha Glover



Senator Jacky Rosen with
Sarah Park and Samantha Glover



New Hampshire

Senator Jeanne Shaheen
with Madeline Waters and
Morgan Casey



Senator Maggie Hassan
with Madeline Waters and
Morgan Casey



2023 Senate Reception Attendees



New Jersey

Senator Bob Menendez with delegates Anjali Krishnamurti and Serena Lee



Senator Cory Booker with delegates Anjali Krishnamurti and Serena Lee



New Mexico

Senator Martin Heinrich with delegates Colette Correa-Bruzzese and Grace Wei



Senator Ben Ray Luján with delegates Colette Correa-Bruzzese and Grace Wei



New York

Senator Charles E. Schumer with delegates Isabella Klink and Matthew Stevens

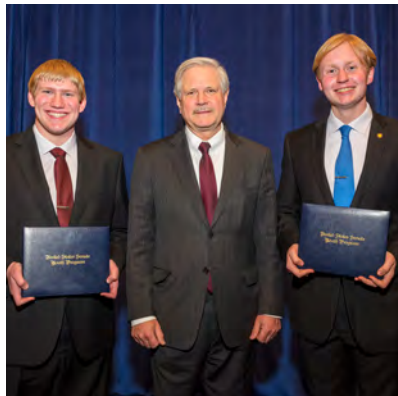


North Carolina

Senator Thom Tillis with delegates Jude Reece and Kara Dugan



Senator Ted Budd with delegates Kara Dugan and Jude Reece



North Dakota

Senator John Hoeven with delegates Gavin Kratcha and Will Nelson



North Dakota

Senator Kevin Cramer with
Gavin Kratcha and Will Nelson



Oklahoma

Senator James Lankford with
Raven Owens and Tuqa Alibadi



Senator Markwayne Mullin with
Tuqa Alibadi and Raven Owens



Oregon

Senator Jeff Merkley with
Caleb Bello and Daniel Hadi



Pennsylvania

Senator Robert P. Casey with
Aditi Mangal and Claire Chi



Rhode Island

Senator Jack Reed with
Dominick Lombard and
Cayetano Sanchez IV



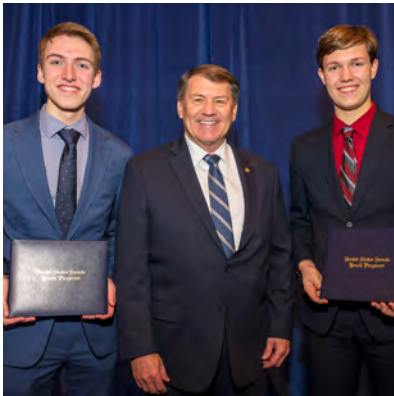
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
with Cayetano Sanchez IV and
Dominick Lombard



South Dakota

Senator John Thune with
Dustin Hermansen and
Maxwell Lightfield

2023 Senate Reception Attendees



South Dakota

Senator Michael Rounds
with Maxwell Lightfield and
Dustin Hermansen



Tennessee

Senator Marsha Blackburn with
Ella Paligo and Sheerea Yu



Utah

Senator Mike Lee with
Savannah Harlan and
Jena Mahoney



Senator Mitt Romney with
Jena Mahoney and
Savannah Harlan



Vermont

Senator Peter Welch with
Madeleine Ahmadi and
Lauren Solimano



Virginia

Senator Mark R. Warner with
Saehee Perez and Lara Mohamed



Senator Tim Kaine with
Saehee Perez and Lara Mohamed



Washington

Senator Maria Cantwell with
Rishi Hazra and Claire Michal



West Virginia

Senator Joe Manchin, III with Henry Phillips and Alissa Davis



Senator Shelley Moore Capito with Alissa Davis and Henry Phillips



Wisconsin

Senator Ron Johnson with Parker De Deker and Harjasan Singh



Senator Tammy Baldwin with Parker De Deker and Harjasan Singh



Wyoming

Senator John Barrasso with Phoebe Allbright and Sophia Gomelsky





THE OUTSTANDING

2023 Military Mentor Team

Competitively selected military officers designated by the Office of the Secretary of Defense were led by Senior Military Officer Commander Roberto Concepcion, USCG and Assistant Senior Military Officer Lieutenant Colonel Anja Loomis, USMCR

(FROM BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT)
Lieutenant Colonel Anja Loomis, USMCR;
Commander Roberto Concepcion, USCG;
Major Scott Hollister, USAF; Captain
Margaret Mello, USMC; Captain Genevieve
Heaps, USMC; Captain Patrick Sansbury,
USMC; Lieutenant Commander Alexandra
Miller, USCG; Lieutenant Lauren Hickey,
USN; Captain Simone Askew, USA; First
Lieutenant Ryan Boileau, Jr. USA; Captain
Joseph Puntoriero, USA; Lieutenant James
Eggers, USCG; Major Joseph Tomczak,
USAF; Lieutenant Junior Grade Michael
Tafaro, USN; Major Daria Awusah, USAF;
Major Holli Nelson, USANG

Australian Ambassador Suzanne McCourt

A Relationship Built on Values



(RIGHT) Suzanne McCourt, Chief Congressional Liaison Branch, Australian Embassy Washington



A perspective on America from abroad is a core facet of Washington Week, and the 2023 delegates were honored to hear from Ambassador Suzanne McCourt, Australia's Minister-Counselor and Congressional Liaison in Washington, D.C. Ambassador McCourt draws inspiration from her varied international experiences and the importance of diplomacy. "I've been to a range of places, and that for me is the joy of being a diplomat. We are the soft side of power; we talk, negotiate, understand and communicate. It is very different to the hard power side of things, and it's an absolute privilege to represent your country in this way." She commented on Australia's special friendship with the U.S. "The relationship is so robust because it is built on values. It's built on belief in democracy, on good governance, the rule of law, respect for human rights, a commitment to gender equality and the protection of freedom of expression." She described numerous areas of collaboration between Australia and the United States including in the arts and sciences, in addition to matters of defense and security. "We have over 400 people at our embassy in Washington because there are so many parts of the government that need to talk to each other." A bit of Aussie slang was used to further describe the rapport between our nations, "We often just call each other friends or, to use an Australian term, 'mates' because we have so much in common," she smiled. Ambassador McCourt answered a wide range of questions, touching on climate change, refugee policies, electoral processes and economic and defensive alliances, noting that many students in the room would likely be working in a role such as hers one day.





USSYP JOURNALISM LUNCHEON

Soledad O'Brien

Elevate Facts and Honesty

Journalist and author Soledad O'Brien brought enthusiasm and wisdom to the podium for the USSYP annual Journalism Luncheon, and ultimately incorporated the entire experience into her show, *Matter of Fact with Soledad O'Brien* to the delight of all. She described her early career strategy as leading with "yes"; by often volunteering for assignments that were not in her job description. She found that "Doing so put you in rooms with interesting people, gave you the opportunity to build your résumé and forced you to do things that were a bit scary. But that would grow your skillset every day." Responding to Mississippi delegate Joshua Bowman about navigating obstacles, her advice was not to avoid the emotions associated with failure. "The minute it happens, you can say that was terrible. Let's embrace it. Clearly, I am supposed to learn something from this." Ms. O'Brien quoted her mother when a setback occurred. "She said you get 24 hours. Take 24 hours to cry, sit in bed, whatever you want to do, but then start making a list of next steps." Ms. O'Brien urged America's future leaders to fight against misinformation and disinformation. "I beg of you to elevate facts and honesty," she said, highlighting journalism's role "to hold people in power accountable, reflect all of the community, make sure that all voices are being heard and bring facts into context." Texas delegate Sonya Kulkarni commended the award-winning anchor and host in her appreciation: "Journalism is more important now than ever in ensuring that the truth is preserved and sanctified."



(RIGHT)
Ms. O'Brien with Texas delegate
Sonya Kulkarni and Idaho delegate
Emma Brulotte



UNITED STATES SENATE
YOUTH PROGRAM
MARCH 4-11, 2023
★
Shawn Jiminez
Student Delegate
Alaska
Phone: 907-262-1234
Email: shawn.jiminez@alaska.gov
1127 Connecticut Ave NW Washington, DC 20004

UNITED STATES SENATE
YOUTH PROGRAM
MARCH 4-11, 2023
★
Callia Fielding
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UNITED STATES SENATE
YOUTH PROGRAM
MARCH 4-11, 2023
★
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Student Delegate
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1127 Connecticut Ave NW Washington, DC 20004

UNITED STATES SENATE
YOUTH PROGRAM
MARCH 4-11, 2023
★
[Name]
Student Delegate
[State]
Phone: [Number]
Email: [Email]
1127 Connecticut Ave NW Washington, DC 20004

QUOTES FROM DELEGATES



Senator Hickenlooper emphasized that “There is nothing more essential to democracy than trust.” This powerfully demonstrates the importance of building relationships and maintaining the marketplace of ideas. In order to build a stronger, more just, and equitable society, we must be willing to listen to one another and work together in good faith.

Esha Bolar (IA – 2023)

After Washington Week, I truly understand it is real people that transform our government as an institution into a “living, breathing creature.” And these are the people we aspire to become.

Caleb Bello (OR – 2023)

Secretary of the Senate Ann Berry told us: Success is not easy, and anything worth having is worth fighting for. There are many hardships and unfortunate events in our country today that are affecting the beautiful nation that is the United States. Secretary Berry perfectly stated how we must persist through these times.

Carl Rifino (DE – 2023)

USSYP alum Bayan Galal told us, “The capacity for change is a gift, the ability to change is a skill, but the will to make a change — that is a choice.” I was met with a renewed desire to serve my community and my nation. I felt change welling with the words not yet said and the things I could one day achieve with my fellow delegates. I left the program feeling immensely empowered and hopeful for the future.

Alissa Davis (WV – 2023)





The Senate Youth Program provided us with an eye-opening forum that broke down the seemingly impenetrable walls of political partisanship.

Will Nelson (ND – 2023)

Robert Henry’s claim that “public service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy” caused me to reflect on conceptions of territory, indebtedness and reparation throughout American history, from the Trail of Tears to Japanese internment.

Maxton Torres (FL – 2023)

In the words of General Mark Milley, “You don’t have to serve in the military as long as you serve.” Those words are etched in my memory.

Sukesh Kamesh (KS – 2023)

Surgeon General Vivek Murthy said: “I now view connecting myself to a support system not as a distraction, but a source of necessary energy.” His words also reminded me that no matter what I do, it has always been and will always be about the people I serve.

Summer Sun (CA – 2023)

To put it briefly, this program opened my eyes to the realization I am not alone on my journey of working to create a better tomorrow.

Maverick Yasuda (HI – 2023)



Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona advised us that the best way to preserve different cultures and celebrate our differences is “to be unapologetically you.” Not only did I love learning from the people of USSYP, who inspire me and strengthen my faith in our democracy, I loved who I became around them. I became, unapologetically, me.

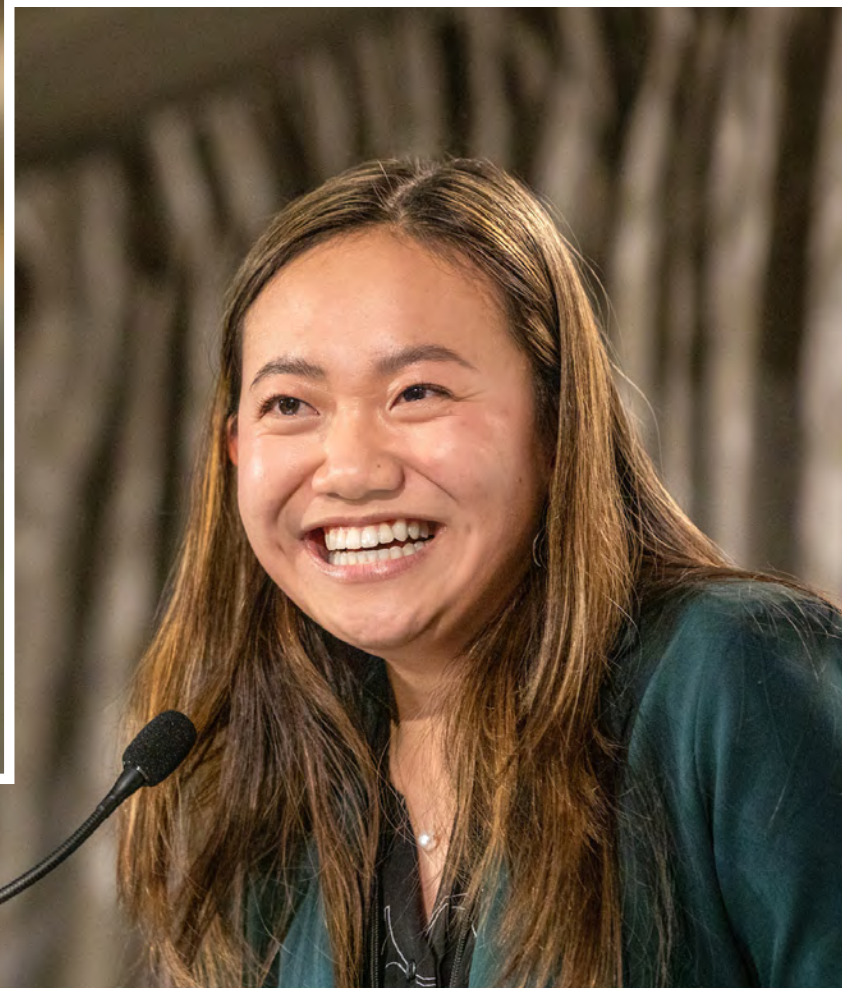
Natalie Emmerson (ME – 2023)



Historic Sites







(ABOVE FROM LEFT) Shawn Jimenez of Maine performs original song for Farewell Night 2023; Delegate Will Nelson of North Dakota; Delegate Summer Sun of California

A Night to Say Farewell

After numerous speeches by dignitaries, diplomats and the highest-elected officials in the nation, the last individuals to address the program are chosen by the students themselves. Accepting the torch on behalf of the next generation, two delegates, selected by their peers through a democratic process, reflect on their shared experience and offer their vision for the future. Summer Sun of California and Will Nelson of North Dakota made inspired remarks, and Shawn Jimenez of Maine performed an original song, offering thought-provoking moments, a lot of shared laughter and bittersweet emotion. The Farewell Dinner also brought closure to the week with a solemn flag-folding ceremony conducted by the superb 2023 Military Mentor team and the Presentation of Colors by the Joint Armed Forces Color Guard.





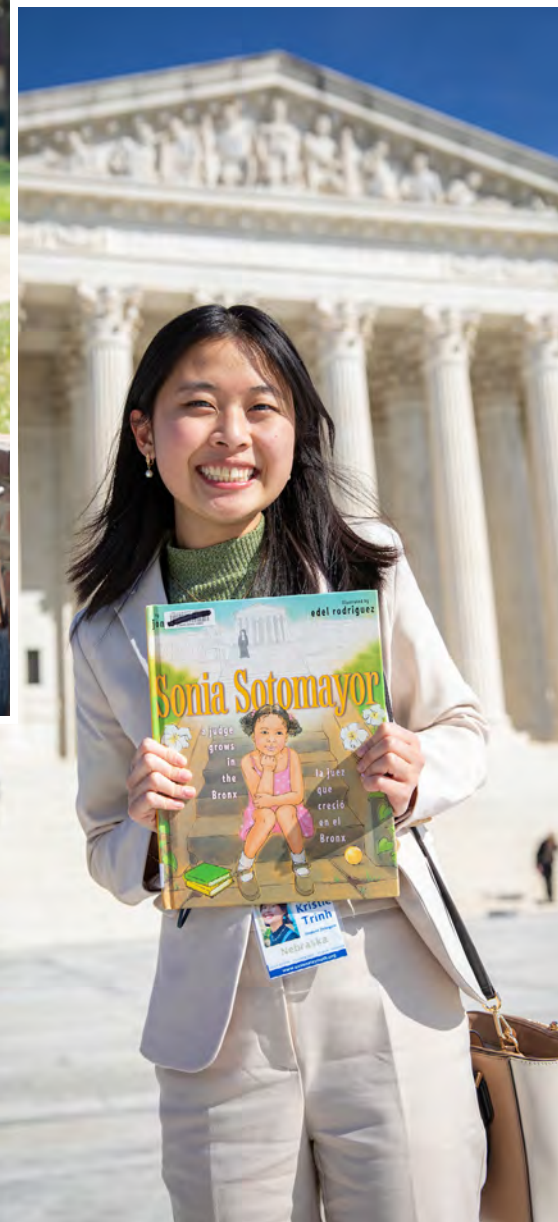
Ms. Kim Burnham
Competitive Grants and Awards Supervisor,
Colorado Department of Education



Mr. Dustin Lambert
Coordinator in the Office of Teaching and
Learning, West Virginia Department of Education

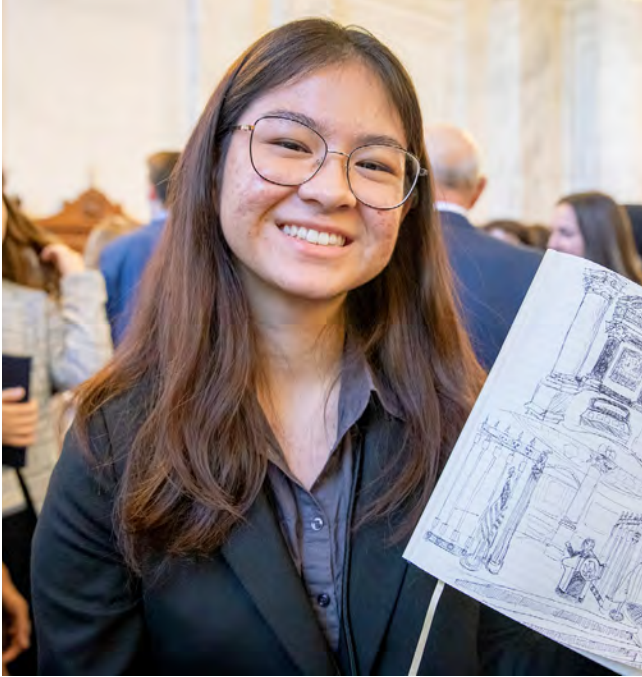
Distinguished Educators Joined Delegates for the 61st Annual Washington Week

The selection administrators from the states of the USSYP Senate Co-Chairs are invited to join the delegates each year for Washington Week. We thank our partners in education for all that they do to support the student selection process.



Washington Week 2023





2023 USSYP Senator and Delegate Roster

ALABAMA



**Senator
Tommy Tuberville**



**Senator
Katie Britt**



Ella Duus
New Century Technology
High School



Stanley Stoutamire, Jr.
John Carroll Catholic
High School

ALASKA



**Senator
Lisa Murkowski**



**Senator
Daniel Sullivan**



Callia Fielding
Skagway School



Jasmine Trotter
Eagle River High School

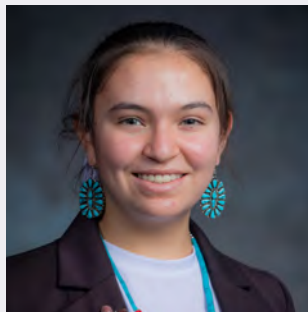
ARIZONA



**Senator
Kyrsten Sinema**



**Senator
Mark Kelly**



Emma Curtright
Monument Valley
High School



Lily Fox
McClintock High School

ARKANSAS



**Senator
John Boozman**



**Senator
Tom Cotton**



Hadia Choudhary
Searcy High School



Ahilan Eraniyan
Haas Hall Academy

CALIFORNIA



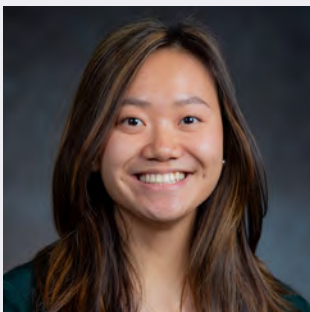
**Senator
Dianne Feinstein**



**Senator
Alex Padilla**



Fiona Lu
Northwood High School



Summer Sun
Chico High School

COLORADO



**Senator
Michael F. Bennet**



**Senator
John Hickenlooper**



Julia Hunt
Fairview High School



Dana Ko
Pine Creek High School

2023 USSYP Senator and Delegate Roster

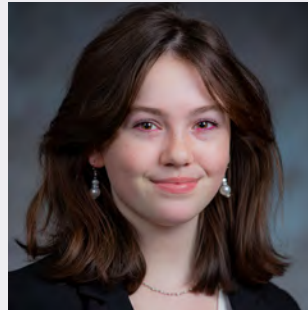
CONNECTICUT



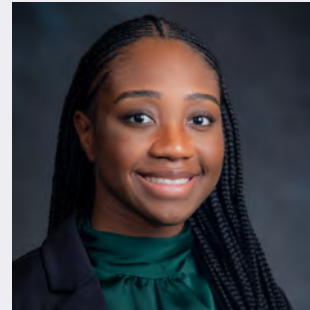
**Senator
Richard Blumenthal**



**Senator
Christopher Murphy**



Cierra O'Sullivan
Thomaston High School



Sciana Vertusma
Hopkins School

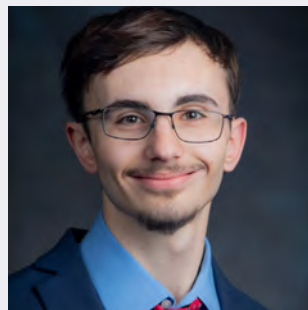
DELAWARE



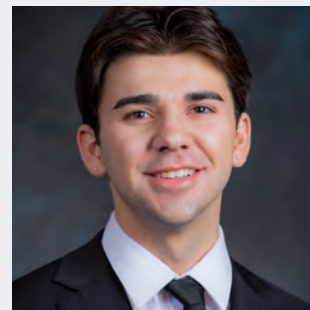
**Senator
Thomas R. Carper**



**Senator
Christopher A. Coons**



Joshua Donophan
Lake Forest High School



Carl Rifino
Smyrna High School

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



**Congresswoman
Eleanor Holmes Norton**



Savannah Alexander
School Without Walls



Anina Dentel-Pham
Basis Washington DC

FLORIDA



**Senator
Marco Rubio**



**Senator
Rick Scott**



Maxton Torres
Belen Jesuit
Preparatory School



Brady White
Fleming Island High School



Olivia Kearley
Lakenheath High School,
England

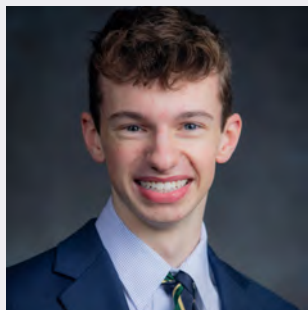
GEORGIA



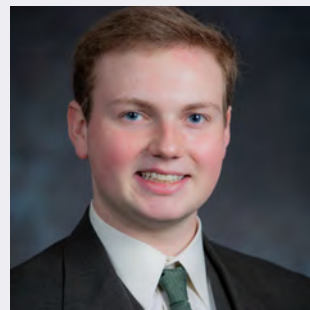
**Senator
Jon Ossoff**



**Senator
Raphael Warnock**



Jack Lakis
Harrison High School



Luke Schofield
Lumpkin County
High School

HAWAII



**Senator
Brian Schatz**



**Senator
Mazie K. Hirono**



Daniel Pruder
Punahou School



Maverick Yasuda
Waipahu High School

2023 USSYP Senator and Delegate Roster

IDAHO



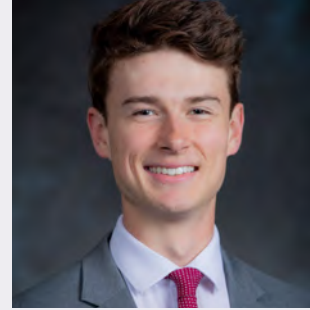
**Senator
Mike Crapo**



**Senator
James E. Risch**



Emma Brulotte
Canyon Ridge
High School



William Tadge
Eagle High School

ILLINOIS



**Senator
Richard J. Durbin**



**Senator
Tammy Duckworth**



Anusha Nadkarni
Bloomington High School



Maisam Rajaie
Mather High School

INDIANA



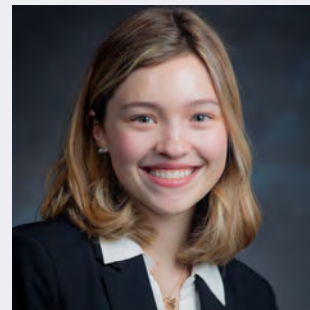
**Senator
Todd Young**



**Senator
Mike Braun**

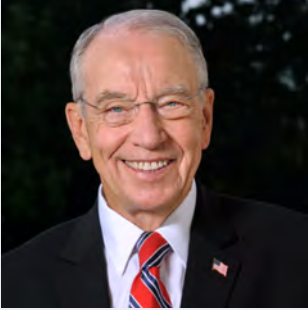


Kerry Ao
Signature School



Norah Wills
Hamilton Southeastern
High School

IOWA



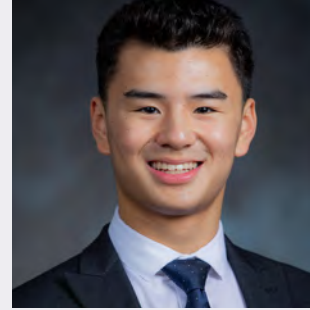
**Senator
Charles Grassley**



**Senator
Joni K. Ernst**



Esha Bolar
Johnston High School



Andrew Dong
West Senior High School

KANSAS



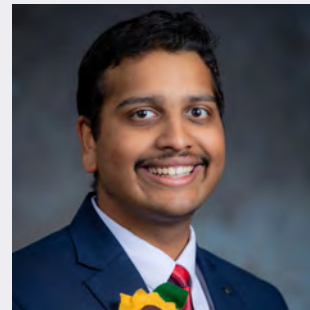
**Senator
Jerry Moran**



**Senator
Roger Marshall**



Madison Coyne
Blue Valley West
High School



Sukesh Kamesh
Kingman High School

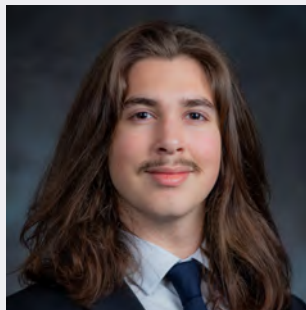
KENTUCKY



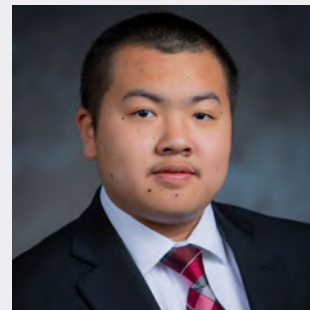
**Senator
Mitch McConnell**



**Senator
Rand Paul**



David Daniel II
Owensboro High School



Heng Yang
Conner High School

2023 USSYP Senator and Delegate Roster

LOUISIANA



**Senator
Bill Cassidy**



**Senator
John N. Kennedy**



Margaret Moe
St. Joseph's Academy



James Stratton
C. E. Byrd High School

MAINE



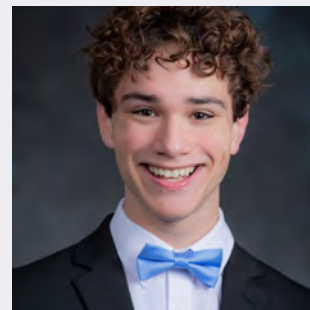
**Senator
Susan M. Collins**



**Senator
Angus S. King**



Natalie Emmerson
Morse High School



Shawn Jiminez
Gardiner Area
High School

MARYLAND



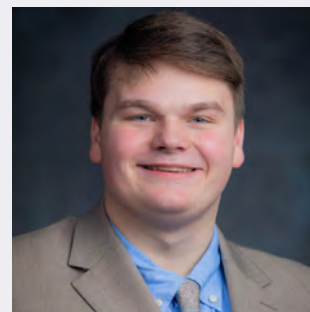
**Senator
Benjamin L. Cardin**



**Senator
Chris Van Hollen**



Maja Durkovic
Eastern Technical
High School

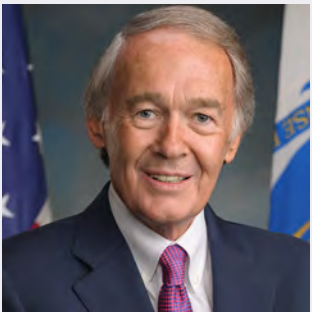


Zachary McGrath
Severna Park Senior
High School

MASSACHUSETTS



**Senator
Elizabeth Warren**



**Senator
Edward J. Markey**



Jimmy Merino
Chelsea High School



Alexandra Tokar
Ashland High School

MICHIGAN



**Senator
Debbie Stabenow**



**Senator
Gary Peters**



Fayyaz Razi
Portage Central
High School



Olivia Serio
International Academy
Okma Campus

MINNESOTA



**Senator
Amy Klobuchar**



**Senator
Tina Smith**



Eleanor Anderson
Mahtomedi High School



Sidarth Gazula
Wayzata High School

2023 USSYP Senator and Delegate Roster

MISSISSIPPI



**Senator
Roger F. Wicker**



**Senator
Cindy Hyde-Smith**



Joshua Bowman
Northwest Rankin
High School



Nadia Harden
Northwest Rankin
High School

MISSOURI



**Senator
Josh Hawley**



**Senator
Eric Schmitt**



Anushka Rawat
Parkway South High School



Sejal Sekhar
Visitation Academy

MONTANA



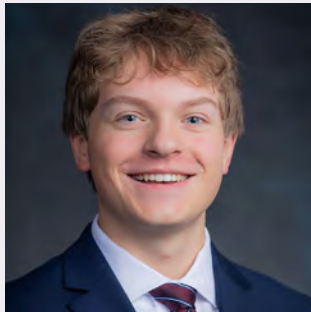
**Senator
Jon Tester**



**Senator
Steve Daines**



Lily Miller
Hellgate High School



Alec Wells
C.M. Russell High School



2023 USSYP Senator and Delegate Roster

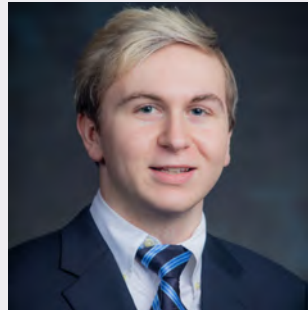
NEBRASKA



**Senator
Deb Fischer**



**Senator
Pete Ricketts**



Jayden Speed
Conestoga Jr/Sr
High School



Kristie Trinh
Lincoln High School

NEVADA



**Senator
Catherine Cortez Masto**



**Senator
Jacky Rosen**



Samantha Glover
Davidson Academy



Sarah Park
Clark High School

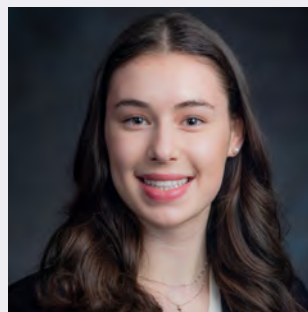
NEW HAMPSHIRE



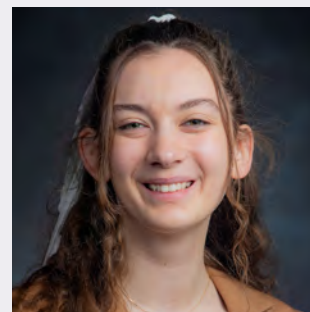
**Senator
Jeanne Shaheen**



**Senator
Maggie Hassan**



Morgan Casey
Bishop Brady
High School



Madeline Waters
Keene High School

NEW JERSEY



**Senator
Robert Menendez**



**Senator
Cory Booker**



Anjali Krishnamurti
Somerville High School



Serena Lee
Montclair High School

NEW MEXICO



**Senator
Martin Heinrich**



**Senator
Ben Ray Luján**



Colette Correa-Bruzzese
St. Pius X High School



Grace Wei
Cottonwood Classical
Preparatory School

NEW YORK



**Senator
Charles E. Schumer**



**Senator
Kirsten E. Gillibrand**



Isabella Klink
Depew High School



Matthew Stevens
Paul V. Moore
High School

2023 USSYP Senator and Delegate Roster

NORTH CAROLINA



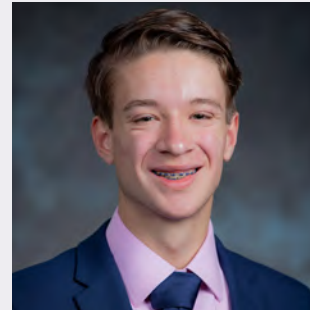
**Senator
Thom Tillis**



**Senator
Ted Budd**



Kara Dugan
North Lincoln High School



Jude Reece
Smithfield Selma
High School

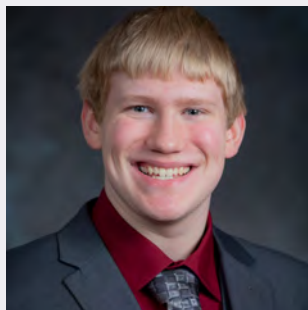
NORTH DAKOTA



**Senator
John Hoeven**



**Senator
Kevin Cramer**



Gavin Kratcha
Hankinson Public School



Will Nelson
Jamestown High School

OHIO



**Senator
Sherrod Brown**



**Senator
JD Vance**



Austin Choi
Oakwood High School



Keshav Sriram
Olentangy High School

OKLAHOMA



**Senator
James Lankford**



**Senator
Markwayne Mullin**



Tuqa Alibadi
Norman North
High School



Raven Owens
Edmond Santa Fe
High School

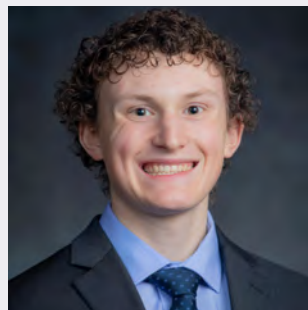
OREGON



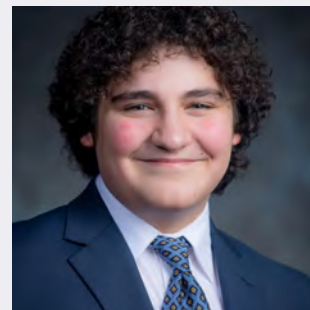
**Senator
Ron Wyden**



**Senator
Jeff Merkley**



Caleb Bello
International School
of Beaverton



Daniel Hadi
Mountainside
High School

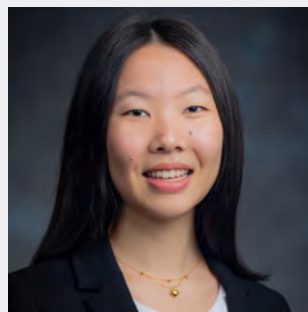
PENNSYLVANIA



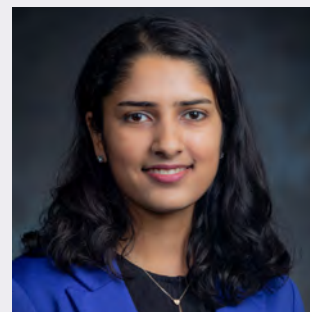
**Senator
Robert P. Casey**



**Senator
John Fetterman**



Claire Chi
State College Area
High School



Aditi Mangal
Spring-Ford Area
High School

2023 USSYP Senator and Delegate Roster

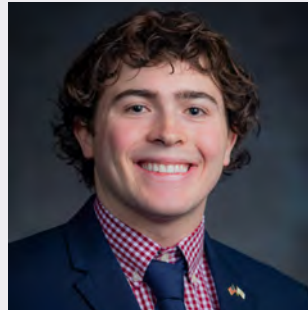
RHODE ISLAND



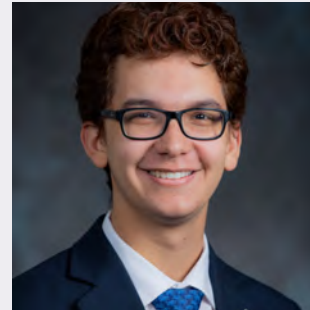
**Senator
Jack Reed**



**Senator
Sheldon Whitehouse**



Dominick Lombard
Westerly High School



Cayetano Sanchez IV
East Greenwich
High School

SOUTH CAROLINA



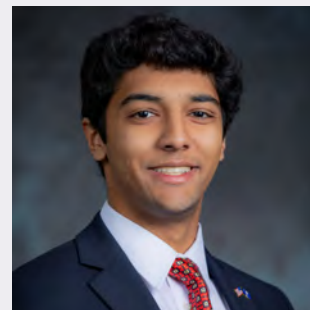
**Senator
Lindsey Graham**



**Senator
Tim Scott**



Madison Hahn
May River High School



Kshiraj Talati
J.L. Mann High School

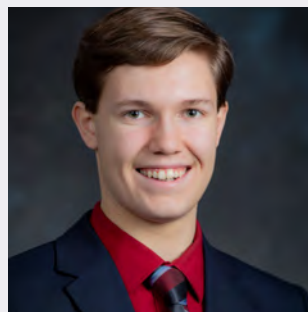
SOUTH DAKOTA



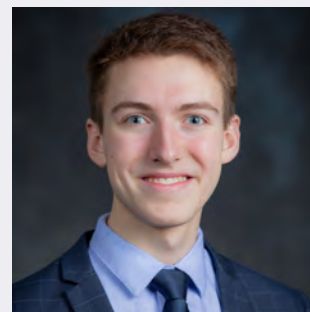
**Senator
John Thune**



**Senator
Michael Rounds**



Dustin Hermansen
Aberdeen Central
High School



Maxwell Lightfield
Milbank High School

TENNESSEE



**Senator
Marsha Blackburn**



**Senator
Bill Hagerty**



Ella Paligo
Beech Senior
High School



Sheerea Yu
University School
of Nashville

TEXAS



**Senator
John Cornyn**



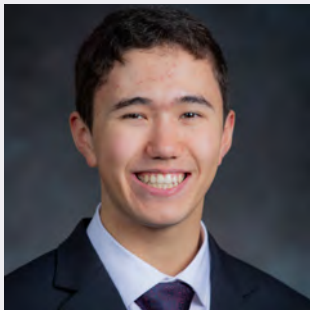
**Senator
Ted Cruz**



John Borowitz II
Texas High School



Sonya Kulkarni
Bellaire High School



Kyung Joon Flanery
Humphreys High School,
South Korea

UTAH



**Senator
Mike Lee**



**Senator
Mitt Romney**



Savannah Harlan
Judge Memorial
Catholic High School



Jena Mahoney
Wasatch High School

2023 USSYP Senator and Delegate Roster

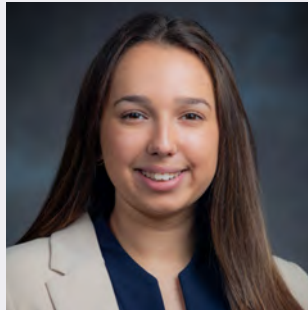
VERMONT



**Senator
Bernard Sanders**



**Senator
Peter Welch**



Madeleine Ahmadi
Essex High School



Lauren Solimano
Rutland High School

VIRGINIA



**Senator
Mark R. Warner**



**Senator
Tim Kaine**



Lara Mohamed
Washington-Liberty
High School



Saehee Perez
McLean High School

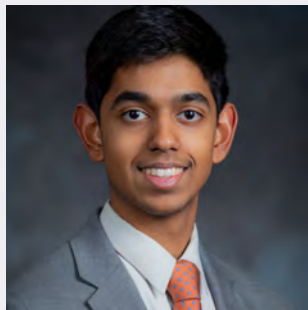
WASHINGTON



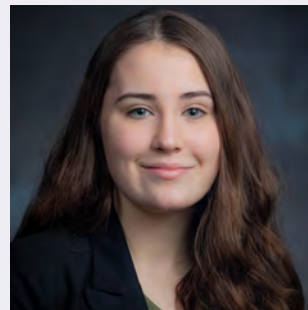
**Senator
Patty Murray**



**Senator
Maria Cantwell**



Rishi Hazra
Skyline High School



Claire Michal
Marysville Getchel
High School

WEST VIRGINIA



**Senator
Joe Manchin, III**



**Senator
Shelley Moore Capito**



Alissa Davis
Spring Valley High School



Henry Phillips
Buckhannon-Upshur
High School

WISCONSIN



**Senator
Ron Johnson**



**Senator
Tammy Baldwin**



Parker De Deker
Neenah High School



Harjasan Singh
Oak Creek High School

WYOMING



**Senator
John Barrasso**



**Senator
Cynthia Lummis**



Phoebe Allbright
Niobrara County
High School



Sophia Gomelsky
Laramie High School

Washington Week 2023

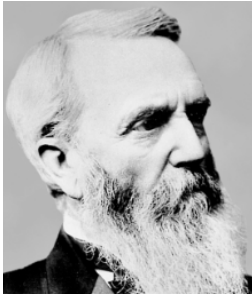








Family, Foundation, Legacy



George Hearst



Phoebe A. Hearst



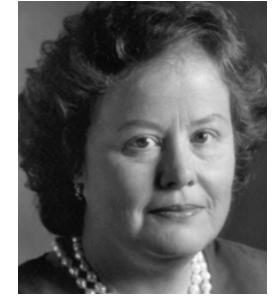
William R. Hearst



George R. Hearst, Sr.



Randolph A. Hearst



Millicent A. Boudjadjji

For 61 years, the United States Senate Youth Program has brought thousands of America's brightest young leaders to Washington, returning them home with insight into the history and heritage of their democracy and encouragement to be leaders of the future. Each year the students leave with lasting impressions of their week including new friendships and bonds that many term "life-changing."

1820

An exemplar of American success, George Hearst, born in 1820, went west to seek a future in mining, and developed the family fortune. He served in the California State Legislature representing San Francisco and was appointed to the U.S. Senate in 1886 and served until his death in 1891. His wife, pioneering philanthropist Phoebe Apperson Hearst, distinguished herself as one of America's most accomplished women, dedicated to historic, educational and children's causes. She co-founded the National Parent Teachers Association in 1897 and was instrumental in the reclamation and rehabilitation of George Washington's Mount Vernon property.

1863

William Randolph Hearst, their only child, was born in 1863 and became one of the great legends of American journalism, establishing vast media holdings at the forefront of new communications technologies, including radio, television and specialty magazines, and becoming an avid student of history and politics. Hearst newspapers detailed the history of the 20th century, and his public service included two terms as a Democratic Congressman from New York. During his life he gave millions of dollars to colleges, hospitals, kindergartens and museums, and in the decade before his death he established the charitable foundations that bear his name.

1962

The United States Senate Youth Program was envisioned by William Randolph Hearst's sons, George R. Hearst and Randolph A. Hearst, who worked with the Senate leadership of the day – Senators Kuchel, Mansfield, Dirksen and Humphrey – to establish and authorize the program in 1962. Since inception, the Senate majority and minority leaders and the vice president of the United States have served as the program's Honorary Co-Chairs; two senators, one of each party, serve as annual Co-Chairs and an eight-senator bipartisan panel serves as the annual Advisory Committee.

2019

For more than 70 years, The Hearst Foundations have continued to support numerous charitable organizations across the country in the fields of education, health, culture and social service. The Foundations' two flagship initiatives are the United States Senate Youth Program and the annual William Randolph Hearst Journalism Awards Program, founded in 1960, to encourage journalistic excellence and to support education at accredited undergraduate schools of journalism nationwide.

For more information about The Hearst Foundations, please access: hearstfdn.org





UNITED STATES SENATE ★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★

EDUCATION • LEADERSHIP • PUBLIC SERVICE • RESPECT

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90 New Montgomery Street, Suite 1212
San Francisco, CA 94105

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