



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For questions about your state's delegates, alternates or selection process, please contact your state selection administrator: Ms. Allegra Kazemzadeh at akazemzadeh@k12.wv.us or (304) 558-5325.

For general information about the United States Senate Youth Program: Program Director Ms. Rayne Guilford (800) 425-3632 or rguilford@hearstfdn.org. Also see www.ussenateyouth.org.

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

January 11, 2018, Washington, D.C. — The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) announces that high school students Mr. Jerry David Lacy III and Mr. Ely Benton Osborne will join Senator Joe Manchin III and Senator Shelley Moore Capito in representing West Virginia in the nation's capital during the 56th annual USSYP Washington Week, to be held March 3 — 10, 2018. Jerry Lacy of Charleston and Ely Osborne of Clay 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 104 of 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.

Jerry Lacy attends George Washington High School and serves as the Student Body president. He formed the West Virginia Young Republicans club, arranging for 40 students from several high schools to spend a day at the West Virginia Capitol meeting with the secretary of State and attorney general. He also interned for Bill Cole during his campaign for governor. In addition, Jerry started an American Red Cross club at school to reinstate blood drives on campus. He is also the vice president of the Beta Club and plays baseball for both his school and a travel team.

Ely Osborne attends Clay County High School and serves as the Senior Class president. His outstanding academic record is complemented by his impressive leadership qualities and extracurricular successes. He is the president of the West Virginia delegation for the Technology Student Association, the state winner of the "Most Outstanding Performer" award for his participation in the We the People competition, captain of the baseball team, president of his church Youth Group, and a youth sports instructor and referee. Ely is also an advocate for the state's Promise Scholarship, and an intern for the Family Policy Council of West Virginia.

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Chosen as alternates to the 2018 program were Ms. Nikita Zinzuwadia, a resident of Beckley, who attends Woodrow Wilson High School and Ms. Emily Fisher, a resident of Morgantown, who attends Morgantown 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 West Virginia delegates and alternates were designated by Dr. Steven L. Paine, State Superintendent of Schools.

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 5,500 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 delegate to be elected to the Senate; Senator Cory Gardner, the first delegate to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and the second to be elected to the Senate; 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 Governor of New Jersey Chris Christie, former Lt. Governor of Idaho David Leroy, former President of the Progressive Policy Institute Robert Shapiro, military officers, members of state legislatures, Foreign Service officers, top congressional staff, healthcare providers and university educators.

Members of the U. S. Senate Youth Program 2018 annual Senate Advisory Committee are: Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina, Republican Co-Chair; Senator Angus S. King, Jr. of Maine, Independent Co-Chair; Bipartisan Senate Advisory Members: John Barrasso, M.D. (R-WY), Thad Cochran (R-MS), Deb Fischer (R-NE), Marco Rubio (R-FL), Kamala D. Harris (D-CA), Joe Manchin III (D-WV), Edward J. Markey (D-MA) and Brian Schatz (D-HI). 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 see: www.ussenateyouth.org**
