



**UNITED STATES SENATE  
★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★**

**EDUCATION · LEADERSHIP · PUBLIC SERVICE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TWO OUTSTANDING LOUISIANA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL BE SELECTED TO SPEND A WEEK IN WASHINGTON OBSERVING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN ACTION**

AUGUST 1, 2016, WASHINGTON, D.C. — Louisiana Senators David Vitter and Bill Cassidy announced that the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) has begun its annual statewide selection process. The two Louisiana students will join 102 other delegates March 4 —11, 2017 for the program's 55th annual Washington Week.

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

More than 5,500 students have participated in this unique leadership program which brings two students from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity to Washington each year to experience an intensive week-long educational program about the workings of the Senate and the federal government overall. USSYP is sponsored by the Senate and fully funded by The Hearst Foundations — no government funds are utilized. Each of the 104 student delegates will receive a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship in addition to the all-expenses paid trip to the nation's capital.

Senator Roger F. Wicker of Mississippi is serving as the 2017 USSYP Republican Co-Chair and Senator Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota is serving as the 2017 USSYP Democratic Co-Chair. The Senate majority and minority leaders and the vice president annually serve as the program's Honorary Co-Chairs.

In addition to outstanding leadership abilities and a strong commitment to volunteer work, the student delegates generally rank academically in the top one percent of their states among high school juniors and seniors. 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 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; New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, the first delegate 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, 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.

The student delegates will visit Capitol Hill, the White House, the Pentagon, the State Department, the Supreme Court and other historic sites in Washington. The agenda routinely includes meetings with senators, the

president, Cabinet secretaries, a justice of the Supreme Court, senior members of the national media and other policymakers.

The delegate selection is administered by each state's chief school officer in cooperation with high school principals. Delegates must be juniors or seniors and elected student officers for the 2016-2017 academic year, and they must reside in the state where they attend school. Eligibility considerations may also be made for student representatives elected or selected (by a panel, commission or board) to district, regional or state-level civic or educational organizations where the delegate is serving a constituency in a high-level leadership position for the entire 2016-2017 academic year.

Names of students selected will be formally announced mid-December. Interested students in Louisiana should contact their high school principal or the state-level selection administrator indicated below:

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The United States Senate Youth Program received notification that the Louisiana selection deadline is: **October 07, 2016.**

**The 2017 program brochure with detailed rules, selection process and the annual yearbook may be accessed on the USSYP website [www.ussenateyouth.org](http://www.ussenateyouth.org).**