



1962-2012
50TH ANNIVERSARY

UNITED STATES SENATE
★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★

EDUCATION · LEADERSHIP · PUBLIC SERVICE

For Immediate Release

Contact: For questions about your state's delegates, alternates or selection process, please contact your state selection administrator: Mr. Lawrence M. Paska, Ph. D at (518) 474-5922 or Lpaska@mail.nysed.gov. For more general information about the United States Senate Youth Program, please contact Program Director Rayne Guilford at 800-425-3632, www.ussenateyouth.org.

New York Students Selected for United States Senate Youth Program **-- Students Headed to Washington, D. C. and to Receive \$5,000 Scholarship--**

Senators Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand today announced the names of the two students who have been selected as delegates to the 50th Anniversary United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) that will be held March 3 – 10, 2012 in Washington, D.C. Jamie Rosen of Delmar and Paarth Shah of Horseheads were chosen from across the state to be part of the group of 104 student delegates who will attend the program's 50th Anniversary Washington Week.

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 was "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."

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 of the 104 student delegates with a \$5,000 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.

Jamie Rosen attends Bethlehem Central High School where she serves as Student Senate treasurer. In addition, Jamie is the girls varsity tennis team captain and is in the Cornell Cooperative Extension Government Intern Program. She also attended the New York State League of Women Voters Students Inside Albany Program in April of 2011. She is the executive vice president of her Temple's youth group and works hard for social justice. She is passionate about government and hopes to pursue a career in public service after graduating from college.

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Paarth Shah attends Horseheads High School and serves as senior class president, his fourth year in this position. Ranked first in his class, Paarth participates in science club, band, debate team, mock trial, and has been a STAC tennis all-star three years in a row. A National Merit Commended scholar, he's the head judge for the town's Youth Court and treasurer of the Rotary Club service organization. Paarth has earned two prestigious community service awards and won two oratory contests. His future plans include studying economics and political science in college and pursuing a career in public service.

Chosen as alternates to the 2012 program were Benjamin Helfand, a resident of New Rochelle, who attends New Rochelle High School and Jonathan Goldstein, a resident of New York, who attends Birch Wathen Lenox.

The chief educational officer in each state selects the delegates after nomination by teachers and principals. This year's delegates were designated by Mr. John King, Commissioner of Education.

While in Washington the student delegates will attend meetings and briefings with Senators and Congressional staff, the President, a Justice of the Supreme Court, leaders of cabinet agencies, an Ambassador to the United States and top 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 5,000 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 U.S. Senator; New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, the first delegate to be elected governor; Congressman Cory Gardner, the first delegate to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; 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.

Members of the USSYP 2012 50th Anniversary Senate Advisory Committee are: Co-Chairs — Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico and Senator Susan M. Collins of Maine. Advisory Committee — Senator Richard J. Durbin of Illinois, Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand of New York, Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon, Senator Barbara A. Mikulski of Maryland, Senator Mike Crapo of Idaho, Senator Johnny Isakson of Georgia, Senator Richard G. Lugar of Indiana and Senator Jeff Sessions of Alabama. Each year, the Honorary Co-Chairs of the program are the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders and the Vice President of the United States.
