



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ohio Students Selected for United States Senate Youth Program
Students to Participate in the First Online Program and to Receive \$10,000 Scholarship

February 22, 2021, Washington, D.C. —The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) announces that high school students Mr. Jacob Matthew Lesick and Ms. Anna MacLennan will join Senator Sherrod Brown and Senator Rob Portman in representing Ohio during the 59th annual USSYP Washington Week, to be held March 14 — 17, 2021. Jacob Lesick of Perrysburg and Anna MacLennan of Cincinnati were selected from among the state's top student leaders to be part of the 104 national student delegation who will each also receive a \$10,000 college scholarship for undergraduate study. Due to the pandemic, the 2021 program will break ground as the first-ever fully virtual Washington Week, and is designed to be a highly interactive and exciting education and leadership forum for the nation's most outstanding student leaders.

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 Senate leadership of the day, the impetus for the program as stated in Senate testimony is "to increase young Americans' understanding of the interrelationships of the three branches of government, learn the caliber and responsibilities of federally elected and appointed officials, and emphasize the vital importance of democratic decision making not only for America but for people around the world."

Each year this extremely competitive merit-based program brings the most outstanding high school students - two from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity - to Washington, D.C. for an intensive week-long study of the federal government and the people who lead it. However, this year, the program will be held online. 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. All expenses for Washington Week are also provided by The Hearst Foundations; as stipulated in S.Res.324, no government funds are utilized.

Jacob Lesick, a senior at Rossford High School, serves as the Senior Class president, and has held the class president position during his four years of high school. Jacob also serves as an inducted member of his chapter's National Honor Society, this year serving as the chapter president. Jacob is a member of Rossford High School's Student Council, serving as a representative, as well as serving as Drum Major for the school Marching Band. Jacob attended the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) program as an ambassador from Rossford his sophomore year, and as a junior staff member in 11th grade. He also works with Leadership Toledo in their Youth in Philanthropy program, currently holding the position of president. Jacob plans on attending college and will study either law or political science, with the goal of going into public service or legislative policy work after graduation.

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Anna MacLennan, a senior at Anderson High School, is a representative on Student Council and was a commissioner on the Hamilton County Commission on Women and Girls. She founded an outreach organization, Girl Power Politics, serves on the East Coast Asian American Student Union's National Conference Team, was an assistant organizer for a global Day of the Girl event, and was a NASA SEES intern. Anna will study political science and physics in college. Her goal is to serve her community in a public capacity, and grow Girl Power Politics to help more girls become involved in government and politics.

Chosen as alternates to the 2021 program were Ms. Maria Almeida, a resident of Cincinnati, who attends Turpin High School and Ms. Madison Adkins, a resident of Jackson, who attends Jackson 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 Ohio delegates and alternates were designated by Mr. Paolo A DeMaria, Superintendent of Education.

During the program week, the student delegates will attend online meetings and briefings with senators, the president, a justice of the Supreme Court, leaders of cabinet agencies and senior members of the national media, among others.

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 5,800 strong, alumni of the program continue to excel and develop impressive qualities that are often directed toward public service. Among the many distinguished alumni are: Senator Susan Collins, the first alumna to be elected U.S. senator; Secretary of Transportation and former Mayor of South Bend Indiana, Pete Buttigieg; former Senator Cory Gardner, the second alumna to be elected U.S. senator and the first to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, the first alumna to be elected governor; former Chief Judge Robert Henry, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit; former Ambassador to West Germany Richard Burt, former presidential advisors Thomas "Mack" McLarty and Karl Rove. Additional notables include former Lt. Governor of Idaho David Leroy, Provost of Wake Forest University Rogan Kersh, military officers, members of state legislatures, Foreign Service officers, top congressional staff, healthcare providers and other university educators.

Members of the U. S. Senate Youth Program 2021 annual Senate Advisory Committee are: Senator Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, Democratic Co-Chair; Senator James Lankford of Oklahoma, Republican Co-Chair; Advisory Members: Senator Thomas R. Carper (D-DE); Senator Christopher S. Murphy (D-CT); Senator Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ); Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR); Senator Richard Burr (R-NC); Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND); Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) and Senator Roger F. Wicker (R-MS). Each year, the Honorary Co-Chairs of the program are the vice president of the United States and the Senate majority and minority leaders.

For more information please visit: www.ussenateyouth.org
