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Contact: Questions about your state's delegates, alternates or state selection process: Dr. Felix J. Yerace at senateyouth@pasc.net or (412) 221-4542 X 603.

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

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

January 10, 2023, Washington, D.C. —The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) announces that high school students Ms. Claire Chi and Ms. Aditi Mangal will join Senator Robert P. Casey and Senator John Fetterman in representing Pennsylvania during the 61st annual USSYP Washington Week, to be held March 4 — 11, 2023. Claire Chi of State College and Aditi Mangal of Phoenixville were selected from among the state's top student leaders to be part of the 104 national student delegation. Each delegate will also 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 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 provides the most outstanding high school students - two from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity - with 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. All expenses for Washington Week are also provided by The Hearst Foundations; as stipulated in S.Res.324, no government funds are utilized.

Claire Chi, a junior at State College Area High School, serves as the student representative on the Pennsylvania State Board of Education and is the co-director of the Students for Education in Pennsylvania organization, which connects student representatives from over 50 school districts across Pennsylvania to education policymakers. Claire founded her own 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Dancing Against Hunger, to promote accessibility to the performing arts and alleviate food insecurity in schools. At her school, she serves on the Leadership Council and is captain of the Public Forum debate team. Claire leads mental health initiatives as president of the Yoga Club and is a TedxPSU 2023 speaker. She has interned for the Smithsonian Institute, been awarded two scholarships from the American Association of University Women, and received the Junior Anthropologist Award of the American Anthropological Association. She intends to study anthropology and public policy specializing in education and nonprofit leadership.

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Aditi Mangal, a senior at Spring-Ford Area High School, serves as a student representative on the Spring-Ford Area School District School Board. She is a Rotary District Speech Competition finalist and regional champion, recipient of the Gold Presidential Volunteer award and Pennsylvania state citation. She is also an AP Scholar with Distinction and recipient of the Pennsylvania Merit Award. She is the managing editor of her school newspaper, debate team officer, a violinist in the honors orchestra ensemble and a district ambassador. Outside of school, she is on the leadership council of the state chapter of Chief Science Officers, is an intern with Pennsylvania State Senator Katie Muth, a Red Cross disaster responder, and a student ambassador to Congresswoman Madeleine Dean's Task Force. Aditi serves as a second-degree black belt assistant instructor in martial arts, and tutors students through her own 501(c)3: InstantSmile. She plans on concentrating in anthropology with a minor in philosophy to support a future career rooted in public service and law.

Chosen as alternates to the 2023 program were Mr. Yaduraj Pradeep Choudhary, a resident of Downingtown, who attends Downingtown STEM Academy and Ms. Edan Tae Hee Lee Kauer, a resident of Warminster, who attends Council Rock South 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 Pennsylvania delegates and alternates were designated by Mr. Eric Hagarty, Secretary of Education.

During the program week, the student delegates will attend meetings and briefings with senators, the president, a justice of the Supreme Court, and leaders of cabinet agencies, 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 6,000 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 alumna to be elected U.S. senator; Secretary of Transportation and former Mayor of South Bend Indiana, Pete Buttigieg, the first alumna to be appointed as a cabinet secretary; 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 2023 annual Senate Advisory Committee are: Senator John Hickenlooper of Colorado, the 2023 USSYP Democratic Co-Chair and Senator Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia, the 2023 USSYP Republican Co-Chair. The full USSYP Senate Advisory Committee consists of the vice president of the United States and the Senate majority and minority leaders who annually serve as the program's Honorary Co-Chairs; two senators, one from each party, serving as acting Co-Chairs who each have keynote speaking roles, and an eight-member bipartisan senate panel, four senators from each party, who lend their names in support. Serving on the Advisory Committee for the upcoming program are: Senator Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey, Senator Bob Casey of Pennsylvania, Senator Jon Tester of Montana, Senator Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee, Senator Bill Cassidy, MD, of Louisiana, Senator Tom Cotton of Arkansas and Senator Cynthia M. Lummis of Wyoming.

For more information please visit: www.ussenateyouth.org
