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

January 11, 2022, Washington, D.C. —The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) announces that high school students Mr. Richard Liu and Mr. Neil Sash will join Senator John Boozman and Senator Tom Cotton in representing Arkansas during the 60th annual USSYP Washington Week, to be held March 6 — 9, 2022. Richard Liu of Little Rock and Neil Sash of Conway 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 ongoing pandemic, the 2022 program will be held online, through a comprehensive and highly interactive virtual education and leadership forum.

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.

Richard Liu, a senior at Little Rock Central High School, serves as senior lead and director for the Fremont Debate Academy. A nationally ranked debater, he was elected captain of his Policy Debate team and has competed at the state and national level for Future Business Leaders of America, and has been elected lieutenant governor of Arkansas Boys State. As executive assistant to the CEO of Arkansas Associations of Asian Businesses, Richard's experience in Mandarin and English helped bridge the cultural and linguistic gaps between Asian and Western business owners. He has volunteered as a tutor assisting struggling young students and served as counselor at Camp Aldersgate, a summer camp for children with special needs. Richard plans to apply to the Huntsman Program at the University of Pennsylvania for dual degrees in international relations and business, and would like to work abroad with the eventual goal of becoming the U.S. Trade Representative. He believes great leaders demonstrate grit, have a mastery of communication, and possess a genuine desire to elevate the voices of others.

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Neil Sash, a junior at Episcopal Collegiate School, serves as a representative on the Student Council, and has been appointed to Senator John Boozman's Congressional Youth Cabinet. He is one of 15 students in the state selected for Arkansas Communication and Theater Arts Association promoting debate and art. He is the vice captain of the Debate team, captain of the Quiz Bowl team, and has won numerous regional and state awards in debate, Quiz Bowl, science, and engineering competitions. Inducted to the National Forensics League and Mu Alpha Theta, he won first place in the Congressional App Challenge. One of few students worldwide admitted to 3 highly selective MIT programs, he created a globe to help educate the blind alongside his MIT mentors. Neil hopes to study political science, public policy, get a law degree, work towards educational equality, innovation via technology and encourage youth in political leadership and service.

Chosen as alternates to the 2022 program were Ms. Sydney Lane England, a resident of Little Rock, who attends Mount Saint Mary Academy and Ms. Colette Lucia Tesoro, a resident of Centerton, who attends Bentonville West 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 Arkansas delegates and alternates were designated by Johnny Key, Commissioner 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, 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; 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 2022 annual Senate Advisory Committee are: Senator Christopher A. Coons of Delaware, Democratic Co-Chair; Senator Susan M. Collins of Maine, Republican Co-Chair; Advisory Members: Senator Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM); Senator Jeffrey A. Merkley (D-OR); Senator Tina Smith (D-MN); Senator Mark R. Warner (D-VA); Senator Mike Braun (R-IN); Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV); Senator James M. Inhofe (R-OK); and Senator M. Michael Rounds (R-SD). 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
