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New Mexico Students Selected for United States Senate Youth Program
Students Headed to Washington, D. C. and to Receive $10,000 College Scholarship

January 9, 2020, Washington, D.C. — The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) announces that high school students Ms. Cambria Isabelle Barnes and Mr. Andrew Joseph Schumann will join Senator Tom Udall and Senator Martin Heinrich in representing New Mexico in the nation’s capital during the 58th annual USSYP Washington Week, to be held March 7 — 14, 2020. Cambria Barnes of Rio Rancho and Andrew Schumann, also of Rio Rancho, were selected from among the state’s top student leaders to be part of the 104 national student delegation who will also each 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 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. 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. 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.

Cambria Barnes, a senior at Cottonwood Classical Preparatory School, serves as the officer of communications for the Student Body. She is the founder and president of her school’s Model UN club and serves as the president of the National Honor Society. She is an International Baccalaureate diploma candidate who was a member of her school's state champion and national qualifying “We the People” team. She participates in Speech and Debate where she has held offices and won multiple awards. In her free time, she enjoys volunteering with a variety of organizations in her community and learning new languages.

Andrew Schumann, a senior at College and Career High School, serves as president of the Student Body. He drafted his school’s Student Senate Constitution, and as president of the National Honor Society Luna Chapter, also began a school-wide tutoring program. Attending classes at Central New Mexico Community College (CNM), Andrew has earned 75 college credits while maintaining a 4.0 college GPA and will graduate high school with associate degrees in political science, history, and pre-law. While at CNM, Andrew has been on the Dean's List for five consecutive semesters, and has been inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

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Chosen as alternates to the 2020 program were Ms. Shena Leng Han, a resident of Los Alamos, who attends Los Alamos High School and Mr. Caleb Bryce Jorgensen, a resident of Las Cruces, who attends Onate 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 New Mexico delegates and alternates were designated by Ryan Stewart, Secretary of Education.

While in Washington the student delegates attend meetings and briefings with senators, members of the House of Representatives, Congressional staff, the president, a justice of the Supreme Court, leaders of cabinet agencies, an ambassador to the United States and senior members of the national media.

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 5,700 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 alumnus 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; former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, the first alumnus 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 Kari Rove, and Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana currently a candidate for president of the United States. 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.

For more information please visit: www.ussenateyouth.org

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