



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For questions about your state's delegates, alternates or selection process, please contact your state selection administrator: Mrs. Jenni Knaus at jenni.knaus@state.or.us or (503) 947-5860.

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

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

January 11, 2018, Washington, D.C. — The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) announces that high school students Mr. Julio Enrique Flores and Ms. Kelly Jalin Han will join Senator Ron Wyden and Senator Jeff Merkley in representing Oregon in the nation's capital during the 56th annual USSYP Washington Week, to be held March 3 — 10, 2018. Julio Flores of Salem and Kelly Han of Beaverton 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 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 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.

Julio Enrique Flores attends South Salem High School and serves as the Student Body secretary and treasurer and is president of the Debate and Model United Nations club. He also enjoys athletics and music, and is a member of the water polo team, swim team, and South Salem's top orchestra. He serves on the Salem-Keizer student board, where he works with local leaders to improve the Salem community. This past year he worked as an intern for Representative Teresa Alonso-Leon. Enrique aspires to serve as Oregon's first Hispanic governor and inspire other Hispanics to be involved in public service.

Kelly Han attends Westview High School. She serves on the Girls Council for Girls, Inc. of the Pacific Northwest as she believes in the powerful voice of the youth. To help girls find confidence in the world of STEM, she founded the technology camp TinkerCode. Kelly is also the co-founder and co-president of the ping pong club and is a board member of her school's National Honor Society. In addition, Kelly had the opportunity to intern at Willamette West Habitat for Humanity as a Bank of America student leader. She hopes to pursue engineering and government and politics in college.

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Chosen as alternates to the 2018 program were Ms. Maya Bedge, a resident of Beaverton, who attends Westview High School and Mr. Harrison Schreiber, a resident of Corvallis, who attends Crescent Valley 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 Oregon delegates and alternates were designated by Mr. Colt Gill, Acting Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction.

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. 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 5,500 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 to the Senate; Senator Cory Gardner, the first delegate to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and the second to be elected to the Senate; 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 Governor of New Jersey Chris Christie, 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 U. S. Senate Youth Program 2018 annual Senate Advisory Committee are: Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina, Republican Co-Chair; Senator Angus S. King, Jr. of Maine, Independent Co-Chair; Bipartisan Senate Advisory Members: John Barrasso, M.D. (R-WY), Thad Cochran (R-MS), Deb Fischer (R-NE), Marco Rubio (R-FL), Kamala D. Harris (D-CA), Joe Manchin III (D-WV), Edward J. Markey (D-MA) and Brian Schatz (D-HI). 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 see: www.ussenateyouth.org**
