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Contact: Questions about your state's delegates, alternates or state selection process:
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Delaware 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. Augustus Laird Fadden and Mr. Justin Xu will join Senator Thomas R. Carper and Senator Christopher A. Coons in representing Delaware during the 59th annual USSYP Washington Week, to be held March 14 — 17, 2021. Augustus Fadden of Frankford and Justin Xu of Hockessin 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.

Augustus (Gus) Fadden, a senior at Indian River High School, serves as the president of his school's National Honor Society. He has been Class president for the past two years, with the current year election pending. Gus has volunteered for two U.S. Senate campaigns and is founder and chairman of Sussex TeenAge RepublicanS (S.T.A.R.S.). He is vice president of Tri-M Music Honor Society, the leader of the Marching Band Low Brass/Winds Section since 2018 and performs in a gospel band. He has been a member of six All-County and four All-State Band and Choir ensembles, an All-Eastern Concert Band ensemble, and two All-National Concert Band ensembles. Gus has been in every school ensemble including Jazz Band, Baroque, Brass and Acapella Choir and Pit Orchestra. He has earned 15 awards in MCJROTC and achieved the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. He is considering further education at the University of Delaware or West Chester University, or joining the military, and eventually plans to run for public office.

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Justin Xu, a senior at the Charter School of Wilmington, serves as a Student Government representative and is the co-leader of Model UN. He is president of Entrepreneurship Club, the founder and president of the 3D Printing Club that 3D printed face shields for health care workers during Covid-19 supply shortages, and is a member of the school varsity and YMCA swim teams. Justin is an editor and government/politics columnist of his school's newspaper, has served as Student Government historian, has attended the Governor's School for Excellence, was a Delaware Superior Court intern, as was selected for Delaware Boys State. He currently plays viola in the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra and was the former principal violist of the Philadelphia Young Artists Orchestra. He is also a volunteer viola tutor and has served as an election officer in the general election. Justin plans to pursue a career of the sciences, diplomacy, and public service.

Chosen as alternates to the 2021 program were Mr. Timothy McGill, a resident of Wilmington, who attends Brandywine High School and Ms. Rachel Brzezicki, a resident of Felton, who attends Lake Forest 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 Delaware delegates and alternates were designated by Susan S. Bunting, Ed.D., Secretary 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
