



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Washington Students Selected for United States Senate Youth Program**

***Students Headed to Washington, D. C. and to Receive \$10,000 College Scholarship***

**January 12, 2026, Washington, D.C.** — The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) is pleased to announce that high school students Mr. Arya Kapil Kashyap and Ms. Selayna Marie Rudolph will join Senator Patty Murray and Senator Maria Cantwell in representing Washington during the 64th annual USSYP Washington Week, to be held March 7 — 14, 2026.

Arya Kashyap of Bellevue and Selayna Rudolph of Fircrest were selected from among the state's top student leaders. They will join the delegation of 104 outstanding high school students - two from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity - for an intensive week-long study of the federal government and the people who lead it, meeting with Senators, the President, a Supreme Court Justice, and other high-level officials. Each delegate will also receive a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship with encouragement to continue coursework in government, history and public affairs.

**About the 2026 USSYP Delegates:**

Arya Kashyap, a senior at Interlake High School, serves as the Associated Student Body Co-President. He is an Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America and has led his troop as the Senior Patrol Leader. He serves on the Secretariat and staff teams of Model United Nations Northwest (MUNNW) conferences, including as the Secretary-General of Educational Model UN. He is a part of his school's LINK Crew, works with the Bellevue Youth City Council, and was a Yale Young Global Scholar. Arya has earned his International Baccalaureate Diploma, is an AP Scholar with Distinction, and is a National Merit Semifinalist who speaks four languages. He previously served as a Page in the Washington State Legislature and currently interns with a local legislator and a City Council member. Arya plans to study political science and economics and pursue a career in public service.

Selayna Rudolph, a senior at Silas High School, serves as the Associated Student Body President. She is the Secretary of the Tacoma Public Schools All City Senate, the President of the Silas High School Drama Program and is Chair of Silas High Schools Community Service Committee. She participates in community theater and performs community service for the Fircrest Parks and Recreation Department, with over one hundred volunteer hours. She has been the Lead Anchor for Silas' Ram TV News Broadcast for four years and plans to study journalism in college. Selayna is passionate about the power of the press and intends to pursue a career in media as a field journalist.

Chosen as alternates to the 2026 program were Mr. Alden Bachmeier, a resident of Bellingham, who attends Bellingham High School and Mr. Dillon Adams, a resident of Everett, who attends Everett High School.

Delegates and alternates are selected by the state departments of education, including the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activities, after nomination by teachers and principals. The chief state school officer for each jurisdiction confirms the final selection. This year's Washington delegates and alternates were designated by Chris Reykdal, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

**UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM**

2026 Washington Delegate Announcement

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**About The United States Senate Youth Program**

The 2026 United States Senate Youth Program Co-Chairs are Senator Katie Britt of Alabama and Senator Edward J. Markey of Massachusetts. 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 John Barrasso, M.D. of Wyoming, Senator Steve Daines of Montana, Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith of Mississippi, Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada, Senator Andy Kim of New Jersey, Senator Angus S. King, Jr. of Maine, and Senator Elissa Slotkin of Michigan.

The USSYP is a competitive, merit-based program created by Senate Resolution 324 in 1962 by the sons of William Randolph Hearst and the Senate leadership of the day - Senators Kuchel, Mansfield, Dirksen, and Humphrey. The USSYP is designed to encourage America's most talented young people to consider public service as an important, life-long, and noble pursuit. Senate Resolution 324 passed unanimously.

The Hearst Foundations have fully funded the program since inception, as stipulated in SR 324, no government funds are utilized.

USSYP alumni now number more than 6,300 and many go on to build legacies of public service. The distinguished alumni include Senator Susan Collins, the first USSYP delegate to be elected U.S. Senator; former Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, the first to be appointed as a Cabinet Secretary; Representative Sarah McBride, the second to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; former 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, and former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, the first to be elected Governor.

**For more information, please visit [ussenateyouth.org](http://ussenateyouth.org)**

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