



NEWS RELEASE

For additional information, please contact Harris Payne by phone (402-471-2449) or email (harris.payne@nebraska.gov).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO OUTSTANDING NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL BE SELECTED FOR UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

AUGUST 8, 2016 — Nebraska Senators Deb Fischer and Ben Sasse announced that the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) has begun its annual statewide selection process. Two Nebraska students will join 102 other delegates March 4-11, 2017 for the program's 55th annual Washington Week.

More than 5,500 students have participated in this unique leadership program which brings two students from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity to Washington each year to experience an intensive week-long educational program about the workings of the Senate and the federal government overall. Each of the 104 student delegates will receive a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship in addition to the all-expenses paid trip to the nation's capital.

In addition to outstanding leadership abilities and a strong commitment to volunteer work, the student delegates generally rank academically in the top one percent of their states among high school juniors and seniors. Alumni of the program continue to excel and develop impressive qualities that are often directed toward public service.

The student delegates will visit Capitol Hill, the White House, the Pentagon, the State Department, the Supreme Court and other historic sites in Washington. The agenda routinely includes meetings with senators, the president, Cabinet secretaries, a justice of the Supreme Court, senior members of the national media and other policymakers.

The delegate selection is administered by each state's chief school officer in cooperation with high school principals. Delegates must be juniors or seniors and elected student officers for the 2016-2017 academic year, and they must reside in the state where they attend school. Eligibility considerations may also be made for student representatives elected or selected (by a panel, commission or board)

to district, regional or state-level civic or educational organizations where the delegate is serving a constituency in a high-level leadership position for the entire 2016-2017 academic year.

Names of students selected will be formally announced mid-December. Interested students can find more information and download an application at:

<https://www.education.ne.gov/ss/USSYP.html>. The Nebraska application deadline is October 16, 2016.

The 2017 program brochure with detailed rules, selection process and the annual yearbook may be accessed on the USSYP website www.ussenateyouth.org.