



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Questions about your state's delegates, alternates or state selection process:  
Dr. Anne-Lise Halvorsen at [annelise@msu.edu](mailto:annelise@msu.edu) or 313-244-4883.

For general information about the United States Senate Youth Program:  
Program Director Ms. Rayne Guilford (800) 425-3632 or [rguilford@hearstfdn.org](mailto:rguilford@hearstfdn.org).

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

**January 9, 2020, Washington, D.C.** —The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) announces that high school students Ms. Raenah Jelise Lindsey and Mr. Arjun Purohit will join Senator Debbie Stabenow and Senator Gary Peters in representing Michigan in the nation's capital during the 58th annual USSYP Washington Week, to be held March 7 — 14, 2020. Raenah Lindsey of Grand Rapids and Arjun Purohit of Ann Arbor 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.

Raenah Lindsey, a senior at East Grand Rapids High School, serves as a board member on the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation. She serves as the co-president of the National Honor Society, and was a member of her school's state-winning "We the People" team for which she now serves as a student coach. She was elected Girls State governor and has been involved with Youth in Government, participating in its National Advocacy Days Program. Raenah serves as a board member for Michigan High School Democrats and has dedicated a significant amount of her time toward political campaign work in her community.

Arjun Purohit, a junior at Greenhills School, serves as his school's Student Body vice president. He served as his Student Body grade representative in ninth and tenth grade. He is also a participant, champion, and captain of his school's Forensics Team and Debate Team. Arjun has also coached Forensics Middle School and has participated in his school's "Motor City Saturday" community service trips. He has won awards for his performance on the National Spanish Exam and the National Latin Exam.

(more)

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Chosen as alternates to the 2020 program were Ms. Madelyn Snider, a resident of Freeland, who attends Freeland High School and Ms. Aarushi Ganguly, a resident of Ann Arbor, who attends Greenhills 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 Michigan delegates and alternates were designated by Michael F. Rice, Ph.D., State Superintendent 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 alumna to be elected U.S. senator; 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, 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](http://www.ussenateyouth.org)**

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