

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TWO OUTSTANDING FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SELECTED FOR US SENATE YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Two outstanding Florida high school seniors have been selected to represent the state and see federal government in action as part of the United States Senate Youth Program funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. Troy Daly of Deerfield Beach High School in Broward County and Steven Waldorf of Fort Myers Senior High School in Lee County will also receive \$5,000 scholarships to assist with their future college studies. Staff from the offices of Florida's US Senators Bill Nelson and Mel Martinez participated in the selection process along with Todd Clark, a Florida Department of Education official. Annette Boyd Pitts, Executive Director of the Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc. serves as state director of the program. "We are always amazed at the quality of applicants we receive each year," Pitts stated. "The program attracts students who serve in leadership capacities within their schools and also serve their communities through a variety of volunteer activities as well," Pitts added. Applicants submitted essays and applications which included their community service hours, grade point averages, awards, and leadership positions held throughout high school. "We selected the top twelve candidates to travel to Tallahassee and participate in interviews with officials from both US Senate offices and the Florida Department of Education," Pitts reported. The students selected for the interview phase received US Senate finalist plaques. The two Florida students selected for the program will join 102 other delegates March 7—14, 2009 for the program's 47th Annual Washington Week.

In addition to the two students selected to participate in the program and represent Florida, two alternates were selected as well. Alternates may be asked to participate in the Washington DC program in the event one of the selected delegates cannot attend. The alternates from Florida include Heather McIntyre of Sebring High School and Jeffrey Butler of Durant Senior High School. Bios and photos of the students are attached.

The program was established in 1962 by Senate Resolution 324, which resolved: "That the Senate hereby expresses its willingness to cooperate in a nationwide competitive high school program which would give several representative high school students from each state a short indoctrination into the operation of the United States Senate and the Federal Government generally, if such a program can be satisfactorily arranged and completely supported by private funds with no expense to the Federal Government."

Since then, more than 4,600 students have participated in this unique leadership program. Each year, this program of the United States Senate brings two students from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity to Washington to experience an intensive week-long program educational program about the workings of the Senate and the federal government overall. USSYP is fully funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation — no government funds are utilized.

The Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc. (www.flrea.org) in Tallahassee coordinates the program in Florida. Students apply during the fall and the top twelve applicants are invited for interviews. The Hearst Foundation provides a test for the student applicants which is also factored into the selection process.

In addition to outstanding leadership abilities and a strong commitment to volunteer service, the students rank academically in the top one percent of their states. They continue to excel and develop impressive qualities that are often directed toward public service. Among the many distinguished former program delegates are Senator Susan Collins of Maine, the first program delegate elected to the Senate; Judge Robert Henry, U.S. Court of Appeals; former Ambassador to West Germany Richard Burt; former Presidential Advisor's Karl Rove and Thomas "Mack" McLarty. Additional distinguished alumni are former Lt. Governor of Idaho David LeRoy, U.S. Attorney for New Jersey Christopher Christie, Foreign Service Officers, military officers, members of State Legislatures, top Congressional staff, healthcare providers and university educators.

Each of the 104 student delegates will receive a \$5,000 undergraduate college scholarship, in addition to the all-expenses paid trip to our nation's capital.

The student delegates will visit Capitol Hill, the White House, the Pentagon, the State Department, the Supreme Court and other historic sites in Washington. They will meet with Senators, cabinet officers, government leaders and policy-makers.

Florida delegate Troy Daly is a senior at Deerfield Beach High School and is currently ranked 1st in his class of 514 students. He is the founder and President of his high school Politics and Debate club and serves as the Vice- President of the National Honor Society. He is a National Merit Semi-Finalist and a 2008 National AP Scholar. Troy has served as a student representative for the American Legion Boys State Program and the Parkland/Coral Springs Democratic Club. He is the Founder and Director of the Community Chess Club for Senior Citizens. Troy has devoted over 475 community service hours to a wide range of activities including serving as a camp counselor at the Lighthouse for the Blind and a camp for Down's syndrome children. Troy is currently enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program and is undertaking the most rigorous of courses offered by the program. His guidance counselor described Troy as the essence of the USSY program, "He lives and breathes politics. It is his reason for being."

Florida's second delegate, Steven Waldorf, is a senior at Fort Myers Senior High School and is ranked in the top 2% of all Lee county seniors. He is the Founder of the Fort Myers HS Teenage Republicans Club and serves as President of the Political Science Club. Steven serves in the Student Government Association and many other academic honor societies. He has served as the captain of his mock trial team for the past two years and has won numerous individual and team awards. Steven's volunteer efforts span both civic and political arenas. He is the founder and director of Memoreads, a student-based volunteer program dedicated to Alzheimer's patients. Steven has received numerous commendations during his high school years including the Fort Myers Rotary Club Student of the Quarter Award, Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy semifinalist, and National Merit Scholarship semifinalist. His work was published in Prentice Hall's Literature: The American Experience as a model of how to write a persuasive essay. Steven has completed over 175 hours of community service including volunteer work with Big Brothers of Southwest Florida and Gulf Coast Hospital, among others.

Alternates Heather McIntyre of Sebring High School and Jeffrey Butler of Durrant High School rounded out the top four delegates for Florida. They will be considered for the Washington trip in the event that either selected candidate cannot attend.

Juniors and seniors are eligible to apply annually. For additional details or an application, contact Annette Boyd Pitts, Executive Director, The Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc., ABPflreaED@aol.com or call 850-386-8223.

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