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Alabama Students Selected for United States Senate Program
Students Will Travel to Washington to Receive College Scholarships

Montgomery, Ala. – The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) recently announced that Alabama high school students Matthew Lee Bray and Eleanor Anne Covington will be joining Senators Richard Shelby and Doug Jones at the nation’s capital during the 58th Annual USSYP Washington Week, on March 7-14.

Matthew Bray and Eleanor Covington were selected from our state’s top student leaders to be part of this national 104-member student delegation. Each of these students will also receive a $10,000 college scholarship for undergraduate study.

The USSYP was created by Senate Resolution 324 in 1962. The impetus for the program as stated in Senate testimony is "to increase young Americans’ understanding of the interrelationships and responsibilities of the three branches of government.

Matthew Bray is a senior at Oak Mountain High School. He serves as the first vice president of the Alabama Junior Classical League, a statewide organization for secondary school students and teachers devoted to the study of the classics. He was also selected as the school’s drum major and tasked with leading 220 fellow band members. Matthew intends to major in public health and political science. He hopes to pursue a JD/MD and have a career in the public sector dealing with public health policy.

Eleanor Covington is a senior at Enterprise High School. She serves as the president of the Spanish National Honor Society, is captain of the varsity Scholars’ Bowl team, and an officer in the Psychology Club. She is also a member of the English team, serves as a school ambassador, and was recognized as a 2019 National Merit Commended Scholar. Eleanor enjoys many academic subjects, including history, writing, literature, politics, and environmental science. After graduation, she plans to pursue a degree in English. After college graduation, she plans to enter graduate school.

Each year the highly competitive USSYP scholarship 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 outstanding professionals who lead it.

The overall mission of this merit-based program is to instill in each student a profound understanding of the American political process and a lifelong commitment to public service. In addition to the program week, The Hearst Foundations provides each student with a $10,000 undergraduate college scholarship, with encouragement to continue their future coursework in government, history and public affairs areas.

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Alabama Students Selected for United States Senate Program and Scholarships

While in Washington, the student delegates will 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, ambassadors 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.

To learn more about this great national program, visit www.us senateyouth.org.

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