



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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State Superintendent of Education

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Alabama
State Board
of Education

**ALABAMA STUDENTS SELECTED FOR UNITED STATES SENATE
YOUTH PROGRAM – WILL PARTICIPATE IN LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT AND RECEIVE \$10,000 SCHOLARSHIP**

Governor Kay Ivey
President

Montgomery, Ala. – The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) announces that high school students Ms. Maren Lee Fagan and Ms. Clara Rose Ragan will join Senator Richard C. Shelby and Senator Tommy Tuberville in representing Alabama during the *60th annual USSYP Washington Week*, to be held March 6 - 9, 2022.

Jackie Zeigler
District I

Maren Fagan of Daphne and **Clara Ragan of Auburn** were selected from among the state’s top student leaders to be part of the 104 national student delegation who will each also receive a \$10,000 college scholarship for undergraduate study.

Tracie West
District II

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the 2022 program will be held online, through a comprehensive and highly interactive virtual education and leadership forum.

Stephanie Bell
District III

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.

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV
Vice President

Originally proposed by Senators Kuchel, Mansfield, Dirksen and Humphrey, the Senate leadership of the day, 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.

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.
District V

Each year this extremely competitive merit-based program provides the most outstanding high school students - two from each state, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity - with an intensive week-long study of the federal government and the people who lead it.

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.
District VI

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 and understanding of public service.

Belinda McRae
District VII

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. All expenses for Washington Week are also provided by The Hearst Foundations; as stipulated in S.Res.324, no government funds are utilized.

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII
President Pro Tem

Maren Fagan, a junior at Daphne High School, serves as editor in chief of the Journalism Program. As editor in chief, she manages her high school yearbook, *The Palladium*, and the online student newspaper, *The Oracle*.

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

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UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM 2022 - Alabama Delegate Announced

Additionally, she is the president of the Daphne Chapter of Quill and Scroll International Journalism Honor Society. She is also a member of the National Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society, and the Math Honor Society. Maren plans to attend a top-level university in the District of Columbia. Upon graduation from college, she plans to attend law school, with the ultimate goal to work as a civil and human rights lawyer.

Clara Ragan, a senior at Auburn High School, serves as president of the Diversity Council. Additionally, she serves as a Student Council representative, the Science Olympiad team captain and marching band section leader. She secured internship positions with the Lee County District Attorney's Office and with the Alabama Circuit Court, and plans to attend Vanderbilt University as a political science and business major.

Upon graduation from college, she hopes to attend law school. Clara's ultimate goal is to join the government as a judge or Congressional representative. Chosen as alternates to the 2022 program were Mr. Aubteen Pour-Biazar, a resident of Madison, who attends Bob Jones High School and Mr. Joe Don Anderson, a resident of Muscle Shoals, who attends Muscle Shoals High 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 Alabama delegates and alternates were designated by Eric G. Mackey, State Superintendent of Education. During the program week, the student delegates will attend online meetings and briefings with senators, the president, a justice of the Supreme Court, leaders of cabinet agencies, among others.

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 6,000 strong, alumni of the program continue to excel and develop impressive qualities that are often directed toward public service.

Learn more about this program by visiting www.usenateyouth.org. For additional information about Alabama's delegates and the overall selection process, please contact National Program Director, Ms. Rayne Guilford at rguilford@hearstfdn.org or State Coordinator, Dr. Carolyn Jones at 334-694-4900.

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