



# UNITED STATES SENATE ★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★

EDUCATION · LEADERSHIP · PUBLIC SERVICE

## The United States Senate Youth Program

The United States Senate Youth Program, established in 1962 by U.S. Senate Resolution, is a unique educational experience for outstanding high school students interested in pursuing careers in public service. Funded by the Hearst Foundations and administered in Florida by The Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc., this program is offered to qualified junior and senior high school students demonstrating leadership through public service in elected or appointed positions.

Two student leaders from each state are selected to participate in a special program March 3-10, 2018 in Washington experiencing national government in action. Student delegates will hear major policy addresses by Senators, cabinet members, officials from the Departments of State and Defense, and directors of other federal agencies, as well as participate in a meeting with a Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. All transportation, hotel and meal expenses will be provided by The Hearst Foundations. In addition, each delegate will also be awarded a \$10,000 college scholarship for undergraduate studies, with encouragement to pursue coursework in history and political science.

This year, the State of Florida is proud to announce Stephen Marante and Carlee Goldberg as the 2018 delegates for the United States Senate Youth Program. Each delegate will participate in the 2018 Washington Week program. After being selected among the top applicants, Mr. Marante and Ms. Goldberg excelled during the interview process where they were asked questions about the American political system and current events. These students distinguished themselves among a highly competitive field with their exceptional dedication to public service and outstanding leadership in both their school and their community. The 2017-2018 selection committee included Mary Louise Hester, Deputy Director of Outreach from U.S. Senator Bill Nelson's office; Lance Watson, Regional Director from U.S. Senator Marco Rubio's office; and Michael DiPierro, Social Studies Education Specialist from the Florida Department of Education.

## Applying for the United States Senate Youth Program

The application for the State of Florida is available at [www.flrea.org](http://www.flrea.org) annually at the beginning of each school year. Juniors and seniors wishing to apply must be serving in an elected or appointed leadership role for the entirety of the academic year. Qualifying student government, civic, or educational organizations include:

- Student body president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer
- Class president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer
- Student council representative
- Student representative elected or appointed (by a panel, commission, or board) to a local, district, regional, or state-level civic, service, and/or educational organization approved by The Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc. (state selection administrator)

In addition to the application, students must include letters of recommendation and an official copy of their high school transcript. Applications are thoroughly vetted, and the top applicants are selected for the interview phase where students are asked a series of questions assessing their knowledge of current events and the American political system.

## Meet the 2018 Florida Delegates



**Mr. Stephen Marante** is a senior at Coral Springs High School located in Broward County, Florida. Mr. Marante currently holds the position of Student Advisor to the School Board of Broward County, representing over 270,000 students in the sixth largest school district in the United States. In this role, he advises school board members on how to vote on key issues impacting students throughout Broward County. In addition to his service as the Student Advisor to the School Board, Mr. Marante is committed to wide array of public service activities including service as an Executive Board Member for the Broward County Association of Student Councils, Chairperson of the Legislative Affairs Committee of the Broward County School Board, Committee Chair of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee, Captain of the Speech and Debate Team, and a member of Congressman Ted Deutsch's Congressional Youth Cabinet. Mr. Marante has also dedicated significant time to the Children's Miracle Network Dance Marathon community-wide event. Through this philanthropy, over \$10,000 was raised for Nicklaus Children's Hospital. During his many endeavors, Stephen has learned "success wasn't about me, it was about the greater good." Mr. Marante's passion and attitude of public service sets him apart as an ideal candidate for the United States Senate Youth Program.

*I have worked harder than I ever imagined I could to show gratitude to my family and to my fellow Americans. It would be the greatest honor of my life to participate in this program and share my story, and the story of so many hard-working Floridians, with young people from all over America.*



**Ms. Carlee Goldberg** is a senior at North Broward Preparatory School in Coconut Creek, Florida. She currently serves as the President of the National Honor Society. Under her leadership, the NHS Chapter at her school was restructured to be geared towards community service and leadership opportunities for all members, creating a committee system centered around interests of the members. Additionally, Ms. Goldberg serves as Founder/President of StudentsLinked, an organization that publishes a newsletter of scholarships, programs, and service opportunities accessed by over 15,000 students over four states. Her extensive list of activities and recognition also includes Captain of the Debate Team, a member of Congressman Ted Deutsch's Congressional Youth Cabinet, Advisor for Youth Leadership Broward, and Student Government Representative. She is active in her community, participating in Key Club and Teen Court as well as youth political events, tutoring, and serving as the Youth Outreach intern for the Boynton Beach Historical Preservation Society. She shows tremendous initiative, adopting the leadership philosophy that "the only limitations are the ones you yourself put in place." By creating opportunities for herself and proactively pursuing initiatives, Ms. Goldberg has distinguished herself as an innovative leader, exemplifying the desired traits of a United State Senate Youth Candidate.

*I have dedicated much of my youth to taking a variety of interests, from history to sports to arts, and creating opportunities for students and people to follow their passions. From these experiences, I have the involvement and passion to represent Florida.*

## Alternates

**Ms. Zoe Turner** is a senior at Somerset Academy Canyons Middle/High School in Boynton Beach, Florida. She currently serves and the Co-President of the National Honor Society. In addition to this role, Ms. Turner is the Social Action Vice-President of the North American Federation of Temple Youth. In this role, she represents the Southern Tropical Region of the North American Federation of Temple Youth, creating and executing social action events and acting as the legislative representative of the region in Washington, D.C. Among Zoe's leadership positions is Director for Camp Jenny, a free sleepaway camp for elementary school students from inner-city Atlanta and Chair of the URJ Gender Inclusivity Taskforce. For Ms. Turner, "leadership is when those you lead achieve so much more than you ever could."

**Ms. Ava Joy Cockey** is a senior at Eastside High School in Gainesville, Florida. Ms. Cockey's leadership roles include Student Body President where she plans school-wide events including freshman orientation, open houses, and homecoming. Additionally, she serves as Co-President of the Breast Cancer Awareness Club, assisting in fundraising and community events and is Captain of the Varsity Swim and Diving Team. She is active in her church, serving as a youth group leader and altar server. Through positive motivation, words of encouragement, and service to others, Ms. Cockey leads by example in her school and her community.

For more information on this program, please contact [staff@flrea.org](mailto:staff@flrea.org) or visit [www.flrea.org](http://www.flrea.org).