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Minnesota Students Selected for U.S. Senate Youth Program *Students Will Go to Washington and Receive \$5,000 Scholarship*

WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 26, 2009 – Sen. Amy Klobuchar today announced the names of the two Minnesota students who have been selected as delegates to the 47th Annual United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) that will be held March 7–14, 2009, in Washington, D.C. B. Hogie of Lake Park and **T. Mealey [STA Class of 2009]** of Bloomington were chosen from hundreds of applicants to be part of the group of 104 student delegates who will attend the program's 47th Annual Washington Week.

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 Sens. Kuchel, Mansfield, Dirksen and Humphrey, the impetus for the program as stated in Senate testimony was “to increase young Americans’ understanding of the interrelationships of the three branches of government, the caliber and responsibilities of federally elected and appointed officials, and 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 104 of 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 foundation grants each of the 104 student delegates a \$5,000 college scholarship with encouragement to continue coursework in government, history and public affairs. Transportation and all expenses for Washington Week are provided by the foundation, as stipulated in S.Res.324; no government funds are utilized.

Mealey is vice president of the Student Council at Saint Thomas Academy. Mealey is a varsity member of the Saint Thomas Academy football team, a delegate to Minnesota Boys State and a National Merit Scholar. He is a senior leader in the JROTC Leadership Program, and performs in the VISTA Fine Arts Society/VISTA Variety Show and the Worship Band. In addition, Mealey is a *Citation* Student Newspaper editor, a staff writer and political cartoonist. He has been a volunteer in the Meals on Wheels Program, Habitat for Humanity and worked as a summer camp volunteer with disadvantaged children. Mealey plans to double major in mechanical /aerospace engineering and Spanish, and also plans to earn a master's degree in business administration. He would like to make a significant difference in the world by being a part of the solution to balance long-term energy challenges with the need for continued economic progress.

The chief educational officer in each state selects the delegates after nomination by teachers and principals. This year's delegates were designated by Alice Seagren, commissioner of education.

While in Washington, the student delegates will attend meetings and briefings with Senate leadership, other Senators and congressional staff; the president, a justice of the Supreme Court, leaders of cabinet agencies, an ambassador to the United States and top members of the national media. The students will also tour many of the national monuments and several museums and they will stay at the historic Mayflower hotel in downtown Washington, D.C.

In addition to outstanding leadership abilities and a strong commitment to public service, this year's 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 Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, the first program delegate elected to the Senate; Chief Judge Robert Henry, U.S. Court of Appeals; former Ambassador to West Germany Richard Burt; former presidential advisers Thomas "Mack" McLarty and Karl Rove. Additional distinguished alumni are former Idaho Lt. Gov. David LeRoy, U.S. Attorney for New Jersey Christopher Christie, military officers, Foreign Service Officers, members of state legislatures, top congressional staff, healthcare providers and university educators.

Members of the USSYP 2009 47th Annual Senate Advisory Committee are:

- o Co-Chairs: Sen. Thomas R. Carper of Delaware and Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska
- o Advisory Committee: Sen. Christopher J. Dodd of Connecticut, Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri, Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, Sen. John Barrasso of Wyoming, Sen. John B. Ensign of Nevada, Sen. Richard G. Lugar of Indiana and Sen. Mel Martinez of Florida.

Each year, the Honorary Co-Chairs of the program are the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders and the Vice President of the United States.

For more information on the program, visit **www.ussenateyouth.org**
<<http://www.ussenateyouth.org>> .

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