

September 18, 2018

**TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED:**

**Subject: United States Presidential Scholars Program and United States Senate Youth Program Student Scholarship Opportunities**

The Texas Education Agency would like to invite high school principals to nominate students to apply for the following programs:

**United States Presidential Scholars Program:**

High school principals are asked to identify outstanding high school students who will be graduating between January and June of 2019, to apply for consideration for the United States (U.S.) Presidential Scholars Program. One general program student applicant and one Career and Technical Education (CTE) student applicant will be accepted from each school.

**Applications are due October 12, 2018.**

For the general component, the Texas Commissioner of Education will nominate ten male and ten female candidates to apply for the opportunity to be a U.S. Presidential Scholar. Additionally, the Texas Commissioner of Education will nominate five CTE students to apply for the honor.

**Background:**

Established in 1964, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program honors graduating seniors for their outstanding scholarship, achievement, and promise of future success. In 2015, the program was extended to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields. Seniors chosen as U.S. Presidential Scholars are selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. where they will be presented with a medallion at a ceremony in their honor. While there, the students will engage in conversations and events over issues that concern America and the world.

Please see TEA's U.S. Presidential Scholars Program webpage for more information:  
[http://www.tea.texas.gov/Presidential\\_Scholar/](http://www.tea.texas.gov/Presidential_Scholar/)

**United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP):**

High school principals and Student Council Advisors are asked to jointly nominate their most outstanding junior or senior high school students to apply for the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP).

Nominated applicants will be considered by a state committee from the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals. Texas will select two student leaders as delegates (and two alternates) to participate in an intensive week-long educational program with students from across the nation. The program will take place from March 2, 2019 through March 9, 2019, in Washington D.C.

**Applications are due October 15, 2018.**

**Background:**

The USSYP is a unique educational experience for talented junior or senior high school students who demonstrate outstanding leadership and a strong commitment to public service. Established in 1962, the annual USSYP authorizes the selection of 104 student delegates, two from each state, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Office of Dependents Schools to participate in a week-long immersion in Washington activities. Delegates will hear major policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, officials from the Departments of State and Defense, and other federal agencies, as well as participate in meetings with the president and a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. The program is sponsored by The Hearst Foundations, who fund all delegate expenses for Washington Week (transportation, hotel, and meals). Each delegate is also awarded a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship, with encouragement to pursue careers in public service.

Please see the Texas Education Agency USSYP webpage for more information:

[www.tea.texas.gov/USSYP/](http://www.tea.texas.gov/USSYP/)

**Contact:**

For more information about either of these programs, please contact Celeste Padilla, Assistant Director of College and Career Readiness Strategy and Support, at [celeste.padilla@tea.texas.gov](mailto:celeste.padilla@tea.texas.gov).