

SENATOR'S NEWS RELEASE

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LEGISLATIVE YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNOUNCES 2011-2012 MEMBERSHIP

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS SELECTED TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE THE FUTURE OF THE STATE

Some of Louisiana's most outstanding students have been selected as new members of the Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council (LYAC) and will work together over the next year in an effort to influence the legislative process and make the state a better place for young people. The council is a yearly-appointed body composed entirely of students that addresses issues affecting the youth of Louisiana and is overseen by the Louisiana Commission on Civic Education.

Now in its fourth year, LYAC facilitates the communication between youth and the legislature and gives students the unique opportunity to be involved in the workings of state government. LYAC members will have the opportunity to study and address issues of importance to young people, including education, employment, youth health and physical fitness, strategies to increase youth participation in local and state government, underage drinking, litter and environmental control, youth access to state and local services, and various other issues.

Members of the council are selected from a wide pool of applicants from around the state who display a strong interest in civic involvement. Two student members serve from each of the congressional districts (14 members) and seven (7) additional youth members are designated by and represent a school-sponsored or community service club or organization which has a civic mission. The members must be between the age of 14 and 19 and enrolled in a public or private high school or participating in a home study program.

"These impressive young people are connecting with their government in ways that can positively impact their generation in Louisiana," adds Beth Courtney, Vice-Chair of the Louisiana Commission on Civic Education and Executive Director of Louisiana Public Broadcasting. "Each year I look forward to hearing their thoughts and ideas."

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Newly selected Members of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council include the following:

- Nathan Babb, Baton Rouge Magnet High School, Baton Rouge
- Alexa Babin, Byrd High School, Shreveport, Historian
- Tucker Baker, Holly Savior Menard Central High School, Alexandria
- Cari Beth Barrett, Bolton High School, Alexandria
- Austin Bordelon, Marksville High School, Marksville
- Maggie Conerly, Bolton High School, Alexandria, Communication Officer
- Chase Courville, Airline High School, Bossier City
- Alexis Dominique, Westgate high School, New Iberia, President
- Katie Henning, Alfred M. Barbe High School, Lake Charles
- Emma Hollenshead, Caddo Magnet High School, Shreveport
- Sam Ingalls, Mandeville High School, Mandeville
- Kathryn James, Mandeville High School, Mandeville
- Robert Lancon, Highland Baptist Christian School, Jeanerette
- Jordan Lange, Erath High School, Erath
- Tousley Leake West Feliciana High School, St. Francisville
- Clare Messina, Cabrini High School, New Orleans
- Emily Ryan, Marksville High School, Marksville, Vice President
- Andrew Tan, Sterlington High School, Monroe
- Abby Tran, Helen Cox High School, Harvey
- Mary Beth Turner, C.E. Byrd High School, Shreveport, Secretary
- Anna Walton, C.E. Byrd High School, Shreveport

Alternate Members include the following:

- Brandon Atkins, Northlake Christian School, Covington
- Sophie Boudreaux, Chalmette High School, Meraux
- Bethaney Charles, KIPP Renaissance High School, New Orleans
- Katie Counts, West Monroe High School, West Monroe
- Johnny Crain, Franklinton High School, Angie
- Noelle Delhomme, Ascension Episocpal School, Lafayette
- Eleanor Gilbert, Glenbrook School, Minden
- Erin Hall, Natchitoches Central High School, Natchitoches
- Michael Heaton, Episcopal High School, Baton Rouge
- Logan Hilton, Holy Savior Menard School, Alexandria
- Michael Hutchinson, McKinley High School, Baton Rouge
- Debria Joe, Peabody Magnet high School, Alexandria
- Meagan Johnson, Hackberry High School, Hackberry
- Tayler LiRocchi Holden High School, Holden
- Jahi Mackey, McKinley High School, Baton Rouge
- Brandy Milliman, Catholic High School, New Iberia
- Adrian Oudomrath, Westgate High School, New Iberia
- Ariane Schaffer, Lusher Charter School, New Orleans
- Sophie Seba, Parkview Baptist School, Baton Rouge
- Madeline Wagnon, Captain Shreve High School, Shreveport

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Major initiatives and activities of the council include participating on the Louisiana

Public Broadcasting program, Louisiana Public Square; partnering with the Louisiana World Peace Day Committee on world peace activities held each Fall; participating in Global Youth Service Day; awarding LYAC Leadership awards to outstanding young leaders each year; and, this year, promoting opportunities for a youth voice in local government, such as municipal youth councils, will also be a focus.

"Our youth will face tremendous challenges as young citizens and this council allows them the unique opportunity, as our future leaders, to come together as teens and discuss these issues with their legislators and other public officials," said Dale Bayard, Chairman of the Louisiana Commission on Civic Education and a member of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. "These young people bring an energy and enthusiasm to the debate on issues that affect their future."

The newly-elected 2011-2012 Legislative Youth Advisory Council participated in a leadership seminar which included discussions on leadership and teen issues with such officials and community leaders as Governor Bobby Jindal, Secretary of State Tom Schedler, State Representative Rosalind Jones, State Senator Eric LaFleur, East Baton Rouge Parish School Board member Craig Freeman, and three former LYAC senior advisors, David Holmes of Baton Rouge, Michael Bell of Hahnville, and Davante Lewis of Lake Charles. Lieutenant Governor Jay Dardenne and many other speakers also addressed the council about important issues such as tourism, local government, underage drinking and substance abuse.

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*****PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED LIST FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON
THE LYAC MEMBERS IN YOUR AREA!*****