



LOUISIANA SENATE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 5.11.12

CONTACT: SENATE COMMUNICATION OFFICE

PHONE: 225.342.9737

LEGISLATIVE YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNOUNCES 2012-2013 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 fifth 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.

"The Legislative Youth Advisory Council provides a wonderful opportunity for young people, who are the future of our state and nation, to come together and discuss the challenges and triumphs of young citizens with each other and with their legislators," said State Senator Yvonne Dorsey-Colomb, Vice-Chair of the Louisiana Commission on Civic Education.

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 from the state at-large. 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.

"As we celebrate Louisiana's Bicentennial and our rich history, it is important for the next generation to be involved as active citizens," said Beth Courtney, Chair of the Louisiana Commission on Civic Education, "I look forward to working with this outstanding group of young people."

Newly selected Members of the 2012-2013 Legislative Youth Advisory Council are:

- **Jack Mierl, Mandeville High School, Mandeville**
- **Robin Spiess, Lakeshore High School, Mandeville**
- **Ariane Schaffer, Lusher Charter School, New Orleans**
- **Nicholaus Living, Helen Cox High School, Harvey**
- **Brandy Milliman, Catholic High School, New Iberia**
- **Kalin Larousse, Thibodaux High School, Thibodaux**
- **Eleanor Gilbert, Glenbrook School, Minden**
- **Karryn Paulsen, Loyola College Preparatory, Shreveport**
- **Rebecca Aaron, Bolton High School, Alexandria**
- **Mallory Bacon, Bolton High School, Alexandria**
- **Uday Toodi, McKinley Senior High School, Baton Rouge**
- **Jasmine Littles, Zachary High School, Zachary**
- **Laura Bowers, Barbe High School, Lake Charles**
- **Monique Claiborne, Westminster Christian Academy, Lafayette**
- **Clay Parker, St. Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School, Hammond**
- **Taylor Boutte, New Iberia Senior High School, New Iberia**
- **Leah Cavalier, New Iberia Senior High School, New Iberia**
- **Rache'l Oatis, Lutcher High School, Lutcher**
- **Austin Nelson, Pineville High School, Pineville**
- **Nooreen Moosa, Episcopal High School, Baton Rouge**
- **Kesany Boupapanh, LA School for Math, Science & Art, Natchitoches**

Alternate Members include the following

- **Harry Fink, Slidell High School, Slidell**
- **Patrick Flanigan, Mandeville High School, Mandeville**
- **J Cindy Simporios, Helen Cox High School, Harvey**
- **Gregory Estes, Sarah T. Reed High School, New Orleans**
- **Michael Favorite, Donaldsonville High School, Donaldsonville**
- **Sara Brasseaux, Westgate High School, New Iberia**
- **Allison Waddell, Captain Shreve High School, Shreveport**
- **Carie Dupree, Haughton High School, Haughton**
- **Bethany Rhodes, Farmerville High School, Farmerville**
- **Taylor Barr, Bolton High School, Alexandria**
- **Zoe Swarzenski, Baton Rouge Magnet High School, Baton Rouge**
- **Kamesha Brumfield, Scotlandville Magnet High School, Scotlandville**
- **Wallace Myers, Bethel Christian School, Jennings**
- **Leslye Guidry, St. Louis Catholic High School, Lake Charles**
- **Lindsey Landry, Barbe High School, Lake Charles**
- **Nina Hoffpauir, Lafayette High School, Lafayette**

- **Jade Spears, Baton Rouge Magnet High School, Baton Rouge**
- **Stephanie Lutfallah, Alexandria Senior High School, Alexandria**
- **Joshua Bertalotto, Avoyelles Public Charter School, Mansura**
- **Victoria Stryker, Westgate High School, New Iberia**
- **Drew Walker, Fontainebleau High School, Mandeville**

New LYAC members will participate in an orientation and leadership seminar in July 2012. 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, promoting opportunities for a youth voice in local government.

The current members of the 2011-2012 Youth Advisory Council will hold their final meeting Saturday, May 12 at 1:00 p.m. in Senate Committee Room A of the Louisiana State Capitol to issue final reports on the many initiatives and activities they participated in during the year.

###