

California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-003 (REV. 11/2017)

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# California State Board of Education January 2020 Agenda Item #04

## Subject

2020 United States Senate Youth Program: Recognition of California’s Selected Delegates.

## Type of Action

Information

## Summary of the Issue(s)

On December 6, 2019, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced two outstanding high school students to represent California in the 58th annual United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP), sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation.

**Violet Wang** of Petaluma (Sonoma County), a senior at Casa Grande High School in Petaluma City Schools, and **Arushi Avachat** of Pleasanton (Alameda County), a senior at Foothill High School in the Pleasanton Unified School District, were selected for this highly competitive program for their remarkable leadership qualities, scholastic achievement, and strong commitment to their schools and communities.

Thurmond also named two alternates in the event that one or both of the delegates are unable to attend. The first alternate is **Olivia Brooke Sally** of Castro Valley (Alameda County), a senior at Bishop O’Dowd High School in Oakland. The second alternate is **Nathan Viotti** of Menlo Park (San Mateo County), a senior at Menlo-Atherton High School in the Sequoia Union High School District.

A news release about the recipients is posted on the California Department of Education (CDE) Year 2019 web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr19/yr19rel82.asp>.

## Recommendation

The CDE recommends that the State Board of Education (SBE) President and the SSPI recognize Violet Wang, Arushi Avachat, Olivia Brooke Sally, and Nathan Viotti as the 2020 U.S. Senate Youth representatives for California.

## Brief History of Key Issues

Sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, the USSYP was established in 1962 by Senate Resolution 324, and has continued each year by action of the U.S. Senate.

A selection committee from the CDE reviews eligible nominees, and the awardees are selected based on the quality of their application, demonstrated leadership abilities, academic achievement, involvement in school and community activities, extracurricular activities, and commitment to public service.

The USSYP provides a yearly opportunity for selected students to gain an in-depth view of the Senate and the federal government overall as well as a deeper understanding of the interrelationship of the legislative, judicial, and executive branches, according to the national USSYP website at <https://ussenateyouth.org/about_overview/>. The program provides a foundation of knowledge and encouragement for those considering a future in public service on the local, state, or national level.

## Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action

This is an annual event at the January SBE meeting.

## Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

The William Randolph Hearst Foundation provides a $1,000 stipend to the CDE to assist with the costs associated with administering the USSYP.

## Attachment(s)

None.