



# Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001  
www.isbe.net

**James T. Meeks**  
Chairman

**Tony Smith, Ph.D.**  
State Superintendent of Education

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August 2016

Dear Local School Administrator/Guidance Counselor/Academic Advisor:

I am pleased to invite you to help us identify student candidates for the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual United States Senate Youth Program sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. Please make the information available to juniors and seniors in your secondary school buildings.

The first phase of this program brings two students from each state to Washington, D.C., from March 4-11, 2017. Delegates will hear major policy addresses by senators, Cabinet members, officials of the Departments of State and Defense, and leaders of other federal agencies. They will also participate in a meeting with a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and the president of the United States. The Hearst Foundation will pay all expenses for the week, including transportation, hotel, and meals.

The second phase awards a Hearst Scholarship of \$10,000 to selected students. The Hearst Foundation requires that to obtain scholarship funds, a student must participate in the Washington Week program and use the funds within four years of enrollment at an accredited U.S. college or university. Students are encouraged to include history, political science, or related subjects in their undergraduate program.

This mailing contains a description of the program, rules, process, and an application form. If you would like more detailed information, please contact Sally Veach, principal consultant, at [sveach@isbe.net](mailto:sveach@isbe.net) or (217) 782-5589. Or visit the ISBE website at [www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/hearst.htm](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/hearst.htm) for electronic versions of the literature pertaining to the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Smith".

Tony Smith, Ph.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

Enclosures

**Illinois 2016-17 Student Application Information  
for the  
55<sup>th</sup> Annual United States Senate Youth Program  
Sponsored by the  
William Randolph Hearst Foundation**

Eligibility Requirements

The student is required to be actively serving in an elected or appointed capacity in any one of the following student government, civic, or educational organizations during the entire 2016-17 school year:

- student body president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer;
- class president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer;
- Student Council representative; or
- student representative elected or appointed (by a panel, commission, or board) to a local, district, regional, or state-level civic, service, and/or educational organization approved by the state selection administrator.

Also, a student must be a permanent resident of the United States, currently be enrolled in a public or private secondary school in Illinois, and have at least one parent or guardian who is a legal resident of Illinois.

Criteria for Selection

The Hearst Foundation stresses the following qualities:

- leadership ability;
- high scholastic standing and other demonstrated abilities, including knowledge of American history, politics, and current events;
- clear speech and written communication;
- logical thought; and
- community involvement.

Application

The application is on the back page of this document. It may also be found via a link under the Resources section of the webpage at <http://www.isbe.net/spe-ed/html/hearst.htm>. Please copy as needed.

Application Process

- Students must complete an application.
- Attach to it a two-page essay responding to the four questions on the application.
- Obtain his or her principal's signature.
- Submit the application to the Illinois State Board of Education in Springfield.

**The deadline for receipt of applications is 4 p.m., Wednesday, October 5, 2016.** No other information will be accepted or considered. Only complete applications will be accepted; **no electronic submissions, including facsimiles, will be accepted.** **Applications must contain original signatures.** Applicants who desire verification of receipt of their application should use certified mail.

## Selection Process in Illinois

- For purposes of selecting semifinalists, Illinois is divided into six areas. Semifinalists are selected from each area by a multi-county committee organized by a regional superintendent of the area. The committee in each area reviews the applications of students from its area and selects the semifinalists.
- Applicants are notified by letter of their status in the selection process in early November.
- Semifinalists are invited to participate in the final selection process in Springfield on Thursday and Friday, November 17 and 18, 2016. The Springfield selection phase consists of multiple sessions. Each semifinalist participates in one session. The semifinalists participate in individual and group discussions on current issues, American government, and current and former political leaders. Semifinalists need not make preparations for the Springfield portion of the selection process and no written exam will be given.
- Travel and all other costs associated with coming to Springfield are the responsibility of the applicants. The letter notifying students of their selection as a semifinalist will contain the information on the date and time of the session assigned to each student. Each session will last approximately three hours.
- The two finalists, two alternates, and the remaining semifinalists will receive written notification of the judges' selections by mid-December 2016. If a finalist is unable to participate in the United States Senate Youth Program in Washington, D.C., March 4-11, 2017, an alternate will be selected to participate.

## College Scholarship Requirements

To receive the Hearst Scholarship of \$10,000, a student must

- participate in the week-long trip to Washington, D.C.;
- use the funds within four years of enrollment at an accredited U.S. college or university; and
- pledge to include courses in history, political science, or related subjects in his or her undergraduate program.

## Additional Information

- For more detailed information, visit the United States Senate Youth Program website at [www.usenateyouth.org](http://www.usenateyouth.org).
- For an electronic copy of the brochure enclosed, click on the link at the bottom of the webpage at <http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/hearst.htm>.
- For questions in Illinois, contact Sally Veach, principal consultant, Illinois State Board of Education, at [sveach@isbe.net](mailto:sveach@isbe.net) or (217) 782-5589.