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TO: Members of the Maryland State Board of Education
FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*
DATE: May 27-28, 2009
SUBJECT: Special Recognition of Nicholas Dahl and Michael Appau, Maryland Delegates to the United States Youth Senate Program

PURPOSE:

To recognize two students, Nicholas Dahl and Michael Appau, who were selected to represent Maryland at the United States Youth Senate Program (USSYP) conducted in Washington D.C. during the period March 7, 2009-March 14, 2009.

BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

In 1962, the United States Senate voted unanimously to endorse a nationwide youth program that would bring high school students to Washington, D.C. for a brief introduction to the functions of the federal government and, in particular, the United States Senate. The Program was originally authorized by Senate Resolution 324 and continued in succeeding years by unanimous action of the Senate. Each year, two high school juniors or seniors from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia are selected to participate in this unique experience. The funds to support this program are provided by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation.

The selection process begins with a nomination from the school principal, followed by a multiple choice and essay exam on the understanding and application of governmental procedures. The ten students who receive the highest score on the exam proceed to a structured interview by a statewide panel. The panel is charged with selecting two delegates and two alternates to represent Maryland.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The following students were selected as delegates to represent Maryland at the 2009 USSYP:

Nicholas Dahl has represented his Student Government Association at South Carroll High School in Carroll County as the Parliamentarian in his Sophomore year and Vice-President in his Junior year. He is currently an Executive Board Member of the Carroll County Student Government Association. He is a member of the National Honor Society, International Thespians Society, and received the Maryland Athletic Association Scholar Athlete Award. Nic's passions include politics, reading, movies, music, and volunteerism/humanitarian work. Obtaining a law degree and possibly joining the Peace Corps are a few of his aspirations for the future.

Michael Appau has been a representative in student government at Catonsville High School in Baltimore County for two years. Awards he has received include the AP Scholar Award, Outstanding Participant in the National Achievement Scholarship Program, Honorable Mention in the Maryland Distinguished Scholars Program, and the Maryland Athletic Association Scholar Athlete Award. His hobbies include listening and playing reggae music, soccer, volleyball, chess, and reading historical fiction and autobiographies. Michael hopes to major in political science and work for the United Nations Organization or major in biology and history and work for UNICEF.

ACTION:

These two students will be recognized and congratulated on their selection as delegates to the 2009 United States Youth Senate Program and will be presented with certificates of recognition.