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Dec. 2, 2009

News Release

Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones Names Students From Grand Junction and Monument as United States Senate Youth Program Delegates

Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones today announced the appointments of Olivia Marie Prosseda from Lewis-Palmer High School in Monument and Axel Stephen Urie from Central High School in Grand Junction as the Colorado delegates to the 48th annual U.S. Senate Youth Program in Washington, D.C.

“Congratulations to these two outstanding students and young leaders,” said Commissioner Jones. “Their commitment to their education is matched by their dedication to their school and the broader community. Olivia and Axel will shine as representatives of Colorado.”

Olivia Prosseda, a resident of Monument, is student body president, having held an elected position at Lewis Palmer High School for the past four years. She carries a 4.0 grade point average in Advanced Placement classes of chemistry, calculus, statistics and language and composition. Other achievements include being a Hugh O’Brian Leadership Scholar winner and a National Honor Society inductee. She has received outstanding student awards in civics and English.

Prosseda’s future plans include majoring in business economics with a minor in political science. Following a career in business, Prosseda is planning to take a look at running for a state office. In her application, Prosseda expressed her belief that participating in the U.S. Senate

Youth Program provides an opportunity for her to increase her leadership skills to become an effective community leader.

Axel Urie, from Palisade, is head boy in the Student Senate at Central High School in Grand Junction. Urie has been involved in his high school as president of his freshman, sophomore and junior classes impressing individuals with his level of intelligence, great sense of humor and ability to think through issues. Carrying a 5.0 grade point average (five point scale) his Advanced Placement classes include U.S. history, environmental science and calculus. Urie is the recipient of numerous honors including the Masonic Junior of the Year, a Rensselaer Medalist for Math and Science and a National AP Scholar.

Urie's career plans include majoring in anthropology and progressing to a law degree. However, Urie states that his interests are many and he is always open to new ideas and opportunities.

Chosen as alternates to the 2010 program are Lindsey Jo Wagner, a resident of Manitou Springs who attends Manitou Springs High School and Tyler Cameron Janzen, a resident of Fort Collins who attends Rocky Mountain High School.

In addition to outstanding leadership abilities and a strong commitment to volunteer work, the students rank academically in the top one percent of their states qualifying them for the U.S. Senate Youth Program.

The chief educational officer in each state selects the delegates to the U.S. Senate Youth Program. Two delegates are chosen from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity. The student leaders will gather in Washington, D.C., from March 6—13, 2010 for a week of intensive study of the federal government and, in particular, the U.S. Senate.

The operations of the Senate will be particularly emphasized during the week. As in past years, arrangements are underway for the delegates to meet with leading cabinet members, a Supreme Court justice and several key congressional policy makers.

Each of the 104 delegates will receive a \$5,000 college scholarship. This scholarship, in addition to the program week in Washington, D.C., is made possible by a grant from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. All transportation, meals and accommodations are also provided. No government funds are utilized for the program.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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