

**Mike Hanley**  
*Commissioner*

P.O. Box 110500  
Juneau, AK 99811-0500  
[www.eed.state.ak.us](http://www.eed.state.ak.us)

SEAL OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
**STATE OF ALASKA**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT**

**Eric Fry**  
*Information Officer*

907.465.2851  
cell: 907.321.5564  
[eric.fry@alaska.gov](mailto:eric.fry@alaska.gov)

**Press Release**

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **State Names Delegates to U.S. Senate Youth Program**

JUNEAU – Madison Manning, a senior at Meshik School in Port Heiden in the Lake & Peninsula School District, and Thomas Krasnican, a junior at Service High School in the Anchorage School District, are Alaska's delegates to the United States Senate Youth Program for the 2012-2013 school year, Alaska Education Commissioner Mike Hanley announced today.

The first alternate is Emelia Van Wyhe, a senior at Kenny Lake School in Copper Center in the Copper River School District; the second alternate is Sophie Clark, a senior at Klawock High School in the Klawock City School District. An alternate would serve if a selected delegate cannot serve.

"Congratulations to Alaska's delegates and alternates to the prestigious United States Senate Youth Program. It was difficult to choose from among so many talented and engaged students," said Commissioner Hanley. "They represent the many students who strive to make their schools and communities better places."

The United States Senate Youth Program recognizes high school juniors and seniors serving in student government who display outstanding leadership, academic achievement, community service, and the ability to read, write, and think clearly and effectively.

The selection process is based on two essays, academic transcripts, college admission test scores, and two letters of recommendation. The Alaska delegates were chosen from 18 applicants.

The program brings together the highest-level officials from each branch of the federal government and an outstanding group of high school students for a week of educational activities in Washington, D.C. from March 9-16, 2013. Each student receives a \$5,000 college scholarship. The program is funded by the Hearst Foundation.

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Madison Manning serves as her student body president, a representative on the local school board, and the student member of the State Board of Education & Early Development. She is a member of the board of the Alaska Association of Student Governments and is an intern with the Port Heiden Native Council.

Thomas Krasnican is the media/communications representative to his student government and a board member of the National Honor Society. He is varsity captain for the swim team and is active in the Boy Scouts of America's National Youth Leadership Training Program.

Emelia Van Wyhe is student council president and a member of the National Honor Society and Tri-M Music Honor Society. She participated in the Conference of Young Alaskans and was one of nine girls nationwide to participate in the Girls on Ice Science and Mountaineering Leadership Program.

Sophie Clark is her student body president and a former parliamentarian and vice president of the Alaska Association of Student Governments. She has interned with state Sen. Albert Kookesh and served in a mission to Tonga.

Alaska students interested in applying for the 2014 program should see [www.ussenateyouth.org](http://www.ussenateyouth.org). Applications are generally available in early September.

For more information, contact Program Coordinator Shari Paul at 907-465-6535 or [shari.paul@alaska.gov](mailto:shari.paul@alaska.gov).

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