

Dr. Michael Johnson  
*Commissioner*



Department of Education  
and Early Development

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Juneau, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Alaska Students Selected for United States Senate Youth Program**

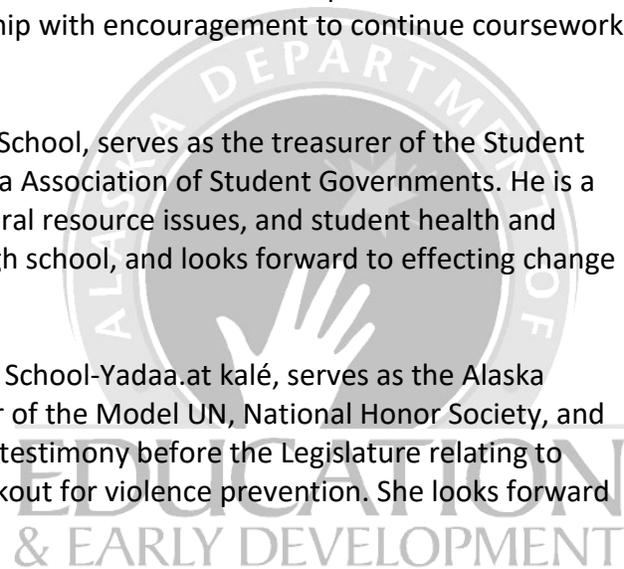
JUNEAU – The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development announced that Alaska high school students Ezra Adasiak of Fairbanks and Stella Tallmon of Juneau will join Senator Lisa Murkowski and Senator Daniel Sullivan in representing Alaska in the nation’s capital during the 58<sup>th</sup> annual [United States Senate Youth Program](#) (USSYP) Washington Week, to be held March 7-14, 2020. In addition to their outstanding leadership abilities and strong commitment to volunteer work, the student delegates rank academically in the top one percent of their states among high school juniors and seniors.

This year’s Alaska delegates and alternates were selected by Dr. Michael Johnson, Commissioner of Education and Early Development. “Ezra and Stella are examples of student leadership in our state,” said Commissioner Johnson. “It is an honor to designate them as Alaska’s youth delegates, and look forward to seeing them continue to grow their skills and serve Alaska in the future.”

Each year, this competitive merit-based program brings the most outstanding high school students - two from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity - to Washington, D.C. for an intensive week-long study of the federal government and the people who lead it. The overall mission of the program is to help instill a more profound knowledge of the American political process and a lifelong commitment to public service. In addition to the program week, The Hearst Foundations provide each student with a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship with encouragement to continue coursework in government, history, and public affairs.

Ezra Adasiak, a junior at Austin E. Lathrop High School, serves as the treasurer of the Student Body and as a regional chairperson to the Alaska Association of Student Governments. He is a leader and advocate for school gun safety, natural resource issues, and student health and wellbeing. Ezra would like to study law after high school, and looks forward to effecting change as an elected official or civil rights lawyer.

Stella Tallmon, a senior at Juneau-Douglas High School-Yadaa.at kalé, serves as the Alaska Student Body Parliamentarian. She is a member of the Model UN, National Honor Society, and several action groups. Stella facilitated student testimony before the Legislature relating to school funding and safety, and led a school walkout for violence prevention. She looks forward



to serving as an elected representative in state or federal government, or as a federal foreign service officer with the State Department.

Chosen as alternates to the 2020 program were Jakob Wade of North Pole High School (North Pole), and Keenan Miller of Thunder Mountain High School (Juneau).

For general information about the United States Senate Youth Program, visit <https://ussenateyouth.org/>.

**Program Contact:**

For questions about Alaska's delegates, alternates, or state selection process: Dr. Bjorn Wolter at [bjorn.wolter@alaska.gov](mailto:bjorn.wolter@alaska.gov) or (907) 465-6542.

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