

News release



Everett Public Schools

Dec. 17, 2010 – Updated March 17, 2011

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President Obama meets with Senate Youth Program delegates

Continuing a tradition that goes back to 1962, President Obama greeted student delegates from the U.S. Senate Youth Program and talked with them about the importance of leadership and his belief in how young people can and do change the world. Vietkhanh Vu is in the second row on the right side of the [video](#).

Original Dec. 17, 2010 News Release

Cascade High's Vietkhanh Vu one of two state's students going to D.C. *She and 99 other U.S. students to attend 49th U.S. Senate Youth Program in March*

Only two students from each of the nation's 50 states are selected annually to attend the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) in Washington D.C. Candidates rank academically among the top 1 percent of students in their states. The program, established in 1962 by U.S. Senate Resolution, is a unique educational experience for outstanding high school students interested in pursuing careers in public service.

Cascade High School (CHS) senior Vietkhanh "VK" Vu is one of Washington state's two candidates – selected from dozens of applicants from around the state to spend March 5–12, 2011, in "the other Washington." There, she and other USSYP delegates will witness major policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, officials from the Departments of State and Defense and directors of other federal agencies. They will also meet with a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Hearst Foundation provides all transportation, hotel and meal expenses for the experience, including a \$5,000 undergraduate scholarship with encouragement to pursue coursework in history and political science. No government funds are involved in the project.

As a high school student, VK is well grounded in public service, volunteerism, governance and policy making and a highly regarded member of the student body.

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Cascade High School social studies teacher Melissa Webster says, “VK is a *take charge*, gifted, enthusiastic, dedicated leader and student. In addition to her academic strengths, VK’s skills have been used continually to help refine and define Cascade programs. VK is an excellent communicator and facilitator. She has coordinated communications between the school and community while developing quality leadership skills. VK’s hard work and dedication to various programs and sports along with her communication skills have been invaluable to the success of many programs at Cascade.”

CHS principal Cathy Woods notes, “Vietkhanh Vu has maintained a 4.0 grade point average throughout high school while taking the most rigorous classes. She has been actively involved in student government at Cascade since her freshman year. She was junior class president last year and is our student body president this year. In addition, she is the WESCO league president of the Washington Association of Student Councils, and serves as one of two student members of our school district’s Fiscal Advisory Council.

“VK Vu is a young woman with exceptionally strong academic determination and focus, a broad understanding of government including local and national issues, and a well-rounded young person of the highest character. She is most deserving of the U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Award.”

USSYP alumni now number over 4,600. In addition to outstanding leadership abilities and a strong commitment to volunteer work, the student delegates continue to excel and develop impressive qualities that are often directed toward public service. Among the many distinguished alumni of the program are Sen. Susan Collins, the first delegate to become a U.S. senator; Chief Judge Robert Henry, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit; former Ambassador to West Germany Richard Burt and former Presidential Advisors Thomas "Mack" McLarty and Karl Rove. Additional distinguished alumni are former Lt. Gov. of Idaho David LeRoy, former President of the Progressive Policy Institute Robert Shapiro, military officers, members of state legislatures, Foreign Service officers, top congressional staff, health care providers and university educators. More on the [United States Senate Youth Program Alumni Association](#) is online.

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