

PRESS RELEASE

Manhattan Beach Unified School District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mira Costa High School Senior Iktae Park Selected as One of Two Students to Represent California in the 2011 U.S. Senate Youth Program

Manhattan Beach, CA, December 9, 2010

The United States Senate unanimously passed a resolution in 1962 creating the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP), a national initiative to provide a yearly opportunity for talented young people with demonstrated leadership abilities to deepen their understanding of America's political processes and strengthen their resolve to pursue careers in public service.

In California, the California Department of Education administers the USSYP. Each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia select two high school juniors or seniors to participate in the USSYP. The delegates receive a \$5,000 college scholarship and attend a one-week, all expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., from March 5-12, 2011.

Mira Costa High School Principal Ben Dale remarked, "Iktae Park received my nomination for his work in various state and local political campaigns and offices. He is also our current Associated Student Body President and displays remarkable leadership in that position."

On December 7, Iktae Park received a call from the California Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jack O'Connell, notifying him of his selection as one of two students from California to earn the prestigious distinction as a USSYP delegate.

According to Dale, "The students and staff of Mira Costa High School are very proud to announce Iktae Park's selection as a California delegate to the USSYP."

MBUSD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Matthews added, “Iktae Park has demonstrated fine leadership abilities and a strong commitment to public service. We are proud to have him represent our high school, our school district and our state as a USSYP delegate.”

“Iktae Park is very deserving of this honor, and I have no doubt that he will leave an indelible impression on his fellow USSYP delegates this spring,” remarked Mr. Bill Fournell, MBUSD Board President.

The United States Senate Youth Program brings the highest-level officials from each branch of government together with this outstanding group of high school students during the intensive week-long educational program held in Washington, D.C. The 104 student delegates will be immersed in Washington activities throughout their stay. Delegates will hear major policy addresses by Senators, Cabinet members, officials of the Departments of State and Defense and directors of federal agencies, as well as participate in a meeting with a Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Each session with elected officials will include an in-depth question and answer period.

The USSYP program is merit-based and highly competitive. Now in its forty-ninth year, the program has been fully funded since its inception by the Hearst Foundation as part of its continuing commitment to preparing young people for citizenship and leadership in our participatory democracy. Now more than 4800 strong, United States Senate Youth Program alumni go on to serve the country in many ways, often in critical national leadership positions.

About the Manhattan Beach Unified School District

Manhattan Beach Unified School District ranks as the third highest performing unified school district in the State of California with a 2010 Growth Academic Performance Index (API) of 926. MBUSD serves nearly 6,900 students from preschool to twelfth grade at eight school campuses—one preschool, five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Mira Costa High School’s API places it in the top 1.3% of public high schools in California, and it was named number fifteen in ESPN’s “Fab 50” High Schools in the Unified States in 2010 for its superior athletic programs. In addition to outstanding students and excellent teachers, MBUSD is extremely fortunate to have a high level of parental involvement in the schools and very strong partnerships with the Manhattan Beach Education and Athletic Foundations, the City of Manhattan Beach, Chevron, Northrop Grumman, Continental Development, the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce and other local organizations and businesses. More information about MBUSD is available at www.mbusd.org.