

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Senator Valerie Wiener, 702-221-0068
Rene Yeckley, 775-684-6830

Award-Winning Training Program, August 9-10, 2011
Nevada Youth Legislature Gears Up for Fourth Term

The Nevada Youth Legislature (NYL), the nationally acclaimed leadership program for Nevada high school students, will begin its fourth term on Tuesday, August 9, 2011, with its intense legislative training program. The session will officially begin with the swearing-in ceremonies, officiated by Chief Justice Michael Douglas, at 11:15 a.m. at the Nevada State Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City.

The Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum, created in statute by the 2007 Nevada Legislature, was renamed the Nevada Youth Legislature in 2009. The NYL is composed of 21 high-school-aged youths who are appointed for two-year terms by their own State Senators. “This program has already seeded outstanding leadership for our state for years to come,” said State Senator Valerie Wiener (Clark County District 3), sponsor of Senate Bill 247, which created the NYL.

The NYL, which is one of only 16 similar programs in the country, is responsible for studying issues of interest to Nevada’s youth. It is one of only two youth legislatures allowed to sponsor legislation. “I believed it was essential for our Youth Legislators to experience the full spectrum of legislative activities,” Wiener said. “Preparing and introducing a legislative measure is an important component of this.” The inaugural Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum sponsored Senate Bill 77 in the 2009 legislative session. This bill, which addresses teen mentoring programs, was signed into law by Governor Jim Gibbons on May 22, 2009. The

2009-2010 NYL sponsored Senate Bill SJR 1, a lottery bill, and the 2010-2011 NYL sponsored Senate Bill 14, an education bill, in the 2011 legislative session. SB 14, dealing with core curriculum standards, was signed into law by Governor Brian Sandoval on May 24, 2011.

In addition to participating in hearings to select a bill draft request (BDR) for the following legislative session, Youth Legislators hold town hall meetings, testify before public bodies, lend expertise to media stories, and advise their own State Senators on youth issues.

During their two-day training, Youth Legislators will have discussions with elected officials; learn about legislative policies, practices, and procedures; take part in public-affairs activities; witness mock hearings run by Legislators; conduct their own mock hearings; participate in a floor session that addresses all of the measures processed during the earlier hearings; and more. Throughout the remainder of their terms, Youth Legislators will hold their own legislative meetings and hearings, as well as participate in additional training in such areas as media skills, speaker development, issue analysis, and other activities that help them grow their leadership skills.

Since its creation, the NYL has earned 12 state, national, and international awards from the Nevada Press Women, the National Federation of Press Women, MarCom Awards, Hermes Creative Awards, and Communitas Awards.

**See attached training agenda for details about presenters, topics, times, and locations.

Members of the 2011-2013 Nevada Youth Legislature are:

1. Torrey Barber, appointed by Senator Breeden, Clark County, Senate District No. 5.
2. Julie Borzage appointed by Senator Copening, Clark County, Senate District No. 6.
3. Kenneth Brooke, appointed by Senator Brower, Washoe County, Senate District No. 3.

4. Alex Bybee, appointed by Senator Cegavske, Clark County, Senate District No. 8
5. Christiana Cabrera, appointed by Senator Leslie, Washoe County, Senate District No. 1.
6. Matthew Clewett, appointed by Senator Kieckhefer, Washoe County, Senate District No. 4.
7. Hannah Dey, appointed by Senator Hardy, Clark County, Senate District No. 12.
8. Kenneth Flores, appointed by Senator Gustavson, Washoe County, Senate District No. 2.
9. Grant Gabriel, appointed by Senator Settlemeyer, Capitol Senatorial District.
10. Juan Gonzalez, appointed by Senator Horsford, Clark County, Senate District No. 4.
11. Elsha Harris-Yolanda, appointed by Senator Manendo, Clark County, Senate District No. 7.
12. Jacob Hart, appointed by Senator Rhoads, Rural Nevada Senatorial District.
13. Nichole Kereszt, appointed by Senator Parks, Clark County, Senate District No. 7.
14. Marcos Mata, appointed by Senator Kihuen, Clark County, Senate District No. 10.
15. Erik Moen, appointed by Senator McGinness, Central Nevada Senatorial District.
16. Trisden Shaw, appointed by Senator Lee, Clark County, Senate District No. 1.
17. Nicole Tatalovich, appointed by Senator Roberson, Clark County, Senate District No. 5.
18. Erica Valdriz, appointed by Senator Schneider, Clark County, Senate District No. 11.
19. Alan Vo, appointed by Senator Denis, Clark County, Senate District No. 2.
20. Zakury Walters, appointed by Senator Wiener, Clark County, Senate District No. 3.
21. Daniel Waqar, appointed by Senator Halseth, Clark County, Senate District No. 9.

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