

2020-2021 Legislative Youth Advisory Council

Member Biographies

William Bartle is a senior at C.E. Byrd High School in Shreveport, Louisiana. William is currently the state Speaker of the House of Louisiana Youth and Government, as well as a returning member to the Legislative Youth Advisory Council and Shreveport Teen Advisory Council. He is also an active NHS member at Byrd, and a varsity Lacrosse and XC member. He looks forward to spreading his enthusiasm for conservation and many other topics as a Youth Representative.

Anil Cacodcar is a junior at the Episcopal School of Acadiana in Lafayette, Louisiana. He is a strong advocate of civic engagement, shown by his participation in the Conference on National Affairs and Model UN, where he was given the Monice Oliphant Award for, "Being the one student that most encourages and fosters leadership through service, fellowship, and responsibility in their participating with Model United Nations." He serves on the State Board for YMCA's Youth Legislature Program. He is also the Lead Video Animation Coordinator and a French Translator for Climate Cardinals: a nonprofit organization that aims to make information about climate change more accessible, and works with over 4,500 volunteers, partnering with UNESCO, Fridays for Future, and Wikipedia. Anil is looking forward to collaborating with his peers on how Louisiana's environmental issues impact its youth, as well as addressing mental health dynamics in young Louisianians.

From Mandeville High School, Jackson Cantrell is the Veterans of Foreign Wars 2020 Louisiana Scout of the Year. His Eagle project is National Eagle Scout Association's "Service Project of the Year" for Louisiana, Istrouma Area Council. His historical reports, "The Enslaved Families of Fontainebleau" and "The Native People of Fontainebleau," are published online by the State and are on file with the Amistad Research Center. Jackson's speaking engagements, based on his research, include the Tulane Environmental Law & Policy Summit, College of William & Mary's Lemon Project Symposium, and the 2021 National Conference on Social Studies. He is the recipient of the Tulane Book Award and is a Furman Scholar. Jackson is a rising senior who is active in YMCA Youth & Government, Model UN team, and the Political Thinkers' Conversation. He brings to LYAC his energy and a deep commitment to servant leadership.

Embeth Coyle is a senior at Loyola College Prep in Shreveport, Louisiana. She is the Student Government Association Executive President and was class president her junior year. Embeth is also the school newspaper editor for her senior year, a member of Key Club, and mock trial. One of her main focuses is volunteerism, and she is a Flyers Aiding the Hungry (FAiTH) officer which helps raise money to provide over 900 food baskets to the less fortunate in the Shreveport area. Every Wednesday afternoon, Embeth can be found volunteering at Garden Park Nursing and Rehabilitation Center spending time with the residents. She swims year round for the YMCA of Northwest Louisiana and competed at the state level for her school swim team. She has attended the literary rally in English her entire high school career, placing in English 1 and 2 at the district level and in English 2 at state. She also placed first at the post and district levels and fifth at state in the VFW Voice of Democracy essay contest for 2019-2020. She has attended three leadership camps and two student government conferences with people from all over Louisiana. This summer, Embeth is attending Notre Dame's Summer Scholars, a precollege program, in Accounting: The Language of Business. Her go-to motto is, "If you want better, go get better," and hopes to work with her peers to better the lives of Louisiana youth as a member of the Louisiana Youth Advisory Council.

Martalisa Fischer is a senior at Hahnville High School in Boutte, Louisiana. She is a Christian who is active in her youth group and her school's Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Martalisa is also a member of her parish's Superintendent's Advisory Council and volunteers with Louisiana Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership (HOBY). She is a member of the Senior Beta Club and has been to three conventions, where she placed third at the state level and fifth at the national level in poetry in 2019. She also loves to sing, and has participated in multiple All-State Choir seminars (including ACDA and LMEA). She is very excited to serve and hopes to bring attention to the problem of food deserts as a member of the Louisiana Youth Advisory Council.

Elaine Gboloo is a senior at Episcopal School of Baton Rouge. She is a member of her school's Honor Council, Mu Alpha Theta, Science Olympiad, and tennis team. She has also participated in Model United Nations and tutors students in writing and math. This is her first year serving on the Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council, and she is grateful for the opportunity to help the youth of Louisiana.

Alexis Harvey is a junior at Saint Joseph's Academy High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She is an active member in SJABRTV, Spanish Club, Media Club, and is Vice President of Youth and Government. She has also attended four state Youth and Government conferences as a General Assembly Presiding Officer at Model United Nations. Alexis, being involved in multiple extracurriculars, is proud to be an academic honor student maintaining a 4.4 GPA. Alexis, with her prior LYAC experiences, is hoping to contribute again and help to propose new ideas for the youth of the great state of Louisiana.

Joseph Ismail is a former student of the now-closed Runnels and currently a rising senior at Episcopal High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. At Runnels, Joseph was the Vice President of the Junior Classical League chapter, Secretary of Mu Alpha Theta, and Treasurer of the Robotics Club, among other things. Joseph is also a 2020 DEMCO Essay Contest Finalist, which provided him the opportunity to advocate for an increase in NASA funding. Over the course of his high school career, Joseph attended the Louisiana District and State Literary Rallies multiple times, with a first place finish in World Geography in 2018. As a member of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council, Joseph hopes to work with his fellow peers to address various health-related issues afflicting the youth of Louisiana, help uplift the voice of the youth, and bring it to the forefront of discussion.

Ali Morgan Langlois is a junior at Stem Magnet Academy of Pointe Coupee in New Roads where she is involved in various school, extracurricular, and parish activities. Ali is currently a second year member of the Pointe Coupee Young Leaders organization and serves as a Farm Bureau youth ambassador advocating for farmers and ranchers in the agriculture industry in Pointe Coupee. She enjoys giving presentations to the youth in the parish promoting local agriculture and the value of commodities. Ali is a Louisiana 4-H University state winner where she proudly promoted local commodities and Louisiana seafood. Her deep involvement and passion for both 4-H and Farm Bureau, as well as her volunteer work in the community with young students of local school organizations, has inspired her to develop dialogue and increase awareness of the potential dangers of social media and long-term effects of its use. She is eager to collaborate with local school boards and administrators on developing curriculum and guidance for schools in educating students on the risks and abuse of social media.

Hana Le is a senior at Ruston High School in Ruston, Louisiana. She is the Louisiana Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State President, an avid debater on the Louisiana Speech and Debate circuit, and a competitive pianist. Hana is actively involved with the Ruston High School newspaper and is deeply passionate about the world and economy around her. As a member of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council, Hana hopes to work with her peers to shine a brighter light on career and technical education and mental health, as well as grow as a leader and further her understanding of just how impactful governmental policies and initiatives are on communities that need them the most.

Ashton Lee is a junior at Hammond High Magnet School. He is involved in many things in school such as Beta Club, the HHMS Swim Team, HHMS Theatre, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the Chick-Fil-A Leadership Club. He is also the Vice President of the Governmental Affairs Department for the Youth Advocacy Team and Coordinator of the Hammond Youth Advisory Council. Ashton is supported by a loving, hardworking Christian family. He's looking forward to serving again on LYAC this year and working for the youth of our great state.

Emani Leefort is a senior at Cabrini High School in New Orleans, Louisiana. Emani is involved at school in No Place For Hate Club, The Crescent Ensemble Choir, The Drama Department, and more. Emani works with No Place For Hate Club to create a unified and safe environment for students. Due to her academic achievements, Emani represented Cabrini High School in the English category at Literary District Rally 2020. Emani has also volunteered for the homeless at St. Joseph's Church Rebuild, the elderly at a local home, and annually at the Louisiana Children's Museum. Emani is interested in working with the Legislative Youth Advisory Council to tackle various issues that teens face, such as community safety, mental health awareness, and false news.

Anna Kate Luke is a senior at Ascension Episcopal School in Lafayette, Louisiana. While keeping academics as a priority in her life, she holds several positions in school clubs such as National Honors Society, National English Honors Society, National Social Studies Honors Society, Beta Club, the community's Rotary Club, and many other organizations. Service is of major importance to Anna Kate. She has competed in multiple sports and lettered in Cross Country and Danceline. She plans on studying medicine and has a goal of becoming an ophthalmologist. Anna Kate hopes to use her experience as historian on the Council this past year and bring new, beneficial ideas to the Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council.

Hafsa Mansoor is a senior at University Academy of Cenla in Alexandria, Louisiana, where she is Student Body President, founder of the Media Team, UA Beta President, and a varsity tennis player. She coordinates UA's annual student-run charity community event. Hafsa is a Regional Leadership Representative for National Beta Club, the largest youth volunteer organization in the US. She has won first place in English at Louisiana District and State Literary Rally from 2017-2020 and Beta Nationals. As a member of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council, Hafsa hopes to focus on statewide medical and educational issues while emphasizing youth engagement.

Benjamin Martin, a senior at Sam Houston High School in Lake Charles, is a self-proclaimed nerd, social media junkie, and tennis addict. In addition to managing a crippling number of AP classes, Ben is heavily involved in multiple scholastic and community-based organizations. He serves as chairman of Louisiana's largest chapter of the Teenage Republicans Club, president and co-founder of Sam Houston's Political Science Club, co-captain for the varsity tennis team, marketer for the French Club, as well as an active member of both Beta Club and Student Council. At the national level, Ben is a founding member of the American Exchange Project, member of the Youth Advocacy Team, and an intern for the #WeavingCommunity social outreach program. He spends what little free time he has binge-watching Parks and Recreation, mindlessly scrolling through social media, and hanging out with his friends and family. As a returning member to the LYAC, he hopes his experiences will help to benefit both the council and Louisiana's youth.

Molly McNulty is a senior at C. E. Byrd High School in Shreveport, Louisiana. She is involved in over 19 school clubs including National Honor Society, Student Council, and Beta Club. Through these organizations, Molly has received the gold Presidential Volunteer Service Award and gold academic key thrice, was selected as the C. E. Byrd HOBY/LYS representative, and was chosen to participate in all four of the Bayou North Area Health Education Center medical programs. She will be spending the next 18 months doing research on pancreatic cancer cells at the LSUHSC labs in Shreveport. Further, Molly is the President of the Project Celebration Youth Advisory Board, North Regional Director of the Louisiana Youth Advocacy Team, former Secretary of the Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council, and summit-planning member of the Northwest Louisiana Teen Advisory Committee. Through the AP Capstone program coupled with her medical and political extracurricular projects, Molly has discovered her passion for public speaking and using research to solve today's worldly issues, a skill she is excited to use during her second term on the Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council.

Autumn Moon is a senior at Cedar Creek High School in Ruston, Louisiana. Most recently, she has served as president of Crown Club of Ruston, Quota Club, and Students Actively Involved in Leadership for Lincoln Parish. In addition, Autumn holds offices in FBLA, Student Council, and FCA, and serves as a school Student Ambassador. Autumn will be entering her fourth year on the varsity dance line where she will be serving as captain for the 2020-21 year. Autumn has won nationally in FBLA for public speaking and at the state level for job interview. In addition to her many leadership and scholastic activities, Autumn has owned her own business since the age of 12. Labelme Custom Creations is a custom jewelry design business that has a philanthropic aspect to it. During her time in quarantine this year, Autumn put her sewing skills to use helping others, and as of this date, has sewn over 800 masks to give to others for free. She plans to continue making masks for others to help those in her community and throughout the state. Autumn is looking forward to serving a second term and being a vital and influential part of the Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council.

Emma Murphy is a senior at Benton High School in Benton, Louisiana. She is a member of the Writing Club, Benton Current Affairs Communication, and is a straight A student. She has always felt passionate about making a difference and advocating for the rights of people and animals, regardless of how unpopular the belief may be. She enjoys writing and uses her free time to volunteer at several local veterinary offices and animal shelters. Emma hopes to enact lots of change in the great state of Louisiana during her time on the Louisiana Youth Advisory Council.

Kaitlyn Parker is a sophomore at Parkview Baptist School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She is a part of the Student Council at Parkview Baptist and is a multisport athlete in soccer and volleyball. She has won many academic awards from organizations such as Louisiana Beta, SBACS, the Duke Tip program, and at her school. Kaitlyn has also been chosen to be a part of the National Academy of Future Physicians. She hopes to bring brighter futures to the underprivileged children in respect to their education and health through work with her peers on the Louisiana Youth Advisory Council.

Abigail Pierce is a senior at Buckeye High School in Deville, Louisiana. She has been a member of her school's student council for two years, where she is over the marketing and communications. In 2018, she started the Linus Project, which collects blankets for the homeless in her community. Her efforts have collected 200 blankets to date, which she donated to The Homeless Coalition. As a member of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council she hopes to work with her peers to raise awareness of issues concerning student mental health and find new ways to impact mental health issues in schools.

Avery Pierson is a senior at Lusher Charter School in New Orleans. This will be Avery's second year on LYAC. Avery enjoys computer science, coding, and research and spent last summer researching the negative effects of acetaminophen on early childhood development through the Advanced Materials Research Institute at UNO. She has also spent all four years of high school in the Certificate of Artistry program in theater and performed in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe last August in Edinburgh, Scotland. Avery is a member of New Orleans' Contemporary Arts Center's Teen Advisory Board where she helps develop educational programming for the museum and works to promote advocacy for the arts in New Orleans. She is involved in several extracurricular activities at school; founder and co-President of the Model UN Club and has participated in several local, regional, and national MUN conferences, she is a Lusher school ambassador, and has been appointed as an Ochsner STEM Ambassador where she shares her love of science and engineering with area youth. When Avery has down time, she loves traveling with her family, reading *Bossy Pants* by Tina Fey, and hanging out with her friends. She hopes to continue to make an impact through her work with LYAC, especially as it relates to important issues facing teens across the state.

Steffek Rainey is a senior at Catholic High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He is the Treasurer of the National Honor Society, the Science Club Vice President, and a candidate for Student Council President. He participated in a leadership conference at the University of Washington in 2019, and he also won first place in the statewide current events contest at the Louisiana Association of Student Councils Convention. He recently completed LSU's Young Entrepreneurs Academy, where he launched a business and earned college credit. In his free time, Steffek enjoys volunteering with local organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and the Baton Rouge Food Bank. He hopes to work with his peers on various environmental initiatives and bring attention to the plastic pollution crisis as a member of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council.

Hrilina Rakhs' involvement in numerous programs has prepared her to be a passionate advocate and adversary on topics important to Louisianians. Hrilina is honored to serve Louisiana's youth as a member of the Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council (LYAC) as a Congressional District 2 Representative.

Gabriel Savoy is a hardworking student and a part of Assumption High's class of 2021. He is active in his local community volunteering in setting up and running local events such as the Fireman's Food Fair and Pierre Part's annual fair. He runs media platforms to help educate the public on current affairs, foreign and domestic, while simultaneously providing an outlet for people to debate and have civil conversations on such affairs. He takes the most challenging courses at his school while running track/cross country and playing tennis.

Nalon Soileau is a senior at LSU University Laboratory School and studies in the International Baccalaureate program. She is an accomplished artist and participates on the varsity track and bowling teams. Last spring, Nalon graduated from the East Baton Rouge Parish Emergency Medical Services' Explorer Post as a licensed Emergency Medical Responder and serves her community responding to calls with EMS. Nalon graduated from the Baton Rouge Police Department's Explorer Post, where she serves Baton Rouge by volunteering time with the police department, is the elected Vice President, and serves on the Honor Guard. In 2019, Nalon was appointed to the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council and is dedicated to promoting childhood wellness within our state. Nalon was honored as a Louisiana 2019 Young Hero by the Baton Rouge Area Chamber and LPB for her outstanding service and dedication to the State of Louisiana. In 2020, the Louisiana Masonic Fraternity recognized her with their Honesty and Integrity Award. Nalon plans to attend college with a focus on public health and medicine. When Nalon is not serving her community, she enjoys exercising, scuba diving, and off-roading in her zebra-striped Jeep.

Raedan Stephens is a senior at Mandeville High School in Mandeville, Louisiana. He is the founder and president of the Economics Club at Mandeville, a member of the St. Tammany Parish Superintendent Advisory Panel, and has served as class president his sophomore and junior year at Mandeville High. He is a co-owner and CEO of Ambici LLC, a wooden watch brand, as well as an intern at the cybersecurity firm Cybirical LLC. He has placed at the Louisiana District Literary Rally in World Geography, Biology II, and United States History. He hopes to bring about legislative change in the state of Louisiana for the state's youth, with a focus on student mental health and community service initiatives across the state.

Born on Independence Day 2003, Grant Wilson Suire is a senior at the Episcopal School of Acadiana and a second-year member of LYAC. He has served as both his Junior and Senior Class President and the captain of his school's Quiz Bowl team. An avid sailor and a varsity runner for the ESA Cross Country team, Grant enjoys venturing to the coast for a quick weekend vacation and is quick to take up a fishing rod when given the chance. Grant founded ESA's Youth & Government club and currently serves as the Governor of Louisiana's Youth & Government program. A former National BETA Speech Champion and a member of the National Honor Society, he has a genuine love for the power of the written and spoken word and enjoys studying speeches by historical figures. Being from a family filled with military personnel, Grant also aspires to answer his country's call to spend a life serving others. After one year of serving on LYAC, Grant has great excitement for the important work that awaits the Youth Advisory Council and the State of Louisiana.

Grant Thevenot is currently a junior at Catholic High School in Baton Rouge where he has been involved in the Speech and Debate Club and most recently elected as Vice President for this upcoming year. He is active in the Youth and Government Club both locally and nationally, and has represented Louisiana at the Conference on National Affairs (CONA) in North Carolina. He is very excited to represent Louisiana's youth through participation in the Louisiana Youth Advisory Council.

Grace Warciski is a senior at Live Oak High School in Watson, Louisiana. Grace has maintained a GPA of a 4.5 during her academic career. She enjoys serving her community as an officer of Key Club and has played varsity volleyball for four years at Live Oak. She is also a member of Beta Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Ambassadors, and Talented Art. In addition, she is also a co-founder of Eagle Tutoring, a service designed to accommodate the academic needs of her community. Grace has also conducted research on the mental health of student-athletes and the sports culture often promoted by the athletic environment. She feels that mental health should become destigmatized within the high school population, especially among athletes. She is an impassioned mental health awareness advocate and hopes to one day study molecular neurobiology in her pursuit of a MD-PhD dual degree.

Kingson Wills is a rising junior at C.E. Byrd High School in Shreveport, Louisiana, where he has demonstrated a commitment to academic excellence by maintaining a 4.0 GPA while taking an aggressive academic course load. Kingson serves as the state editor for the Louisiana Junior Classical League and is an active member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Quiz Bowl, Youth and Government, the Louisiana Youth Advisory Council, and Beta Club, where he is sergeant-at-arms. Kingson has a deep passion for community service, qualifying for the President's Volunteer Service Award both his freshman and sophomore years. He is also co-founder of L.I.F.E. (Love Is For Everyone), a nonprofit organization that connects those who feel compelled to give or serve with those in need of help. Additionally, he recently placed 1st and 3rd place respectively in the 2020 La Regional Social Studies Fair in Political Science and the La Association of Student Councils Oratory Contest. He has also been selected to participate in SUMMA Theological Debate Camp at the University of The South in Sewanee, TN, and the Rhodes Summer Writing Institute in Memphis, TN this summer. Kingson considers it an honor and a privilege to return to LYAC and looks forward to being a major contributor to positive change in Louisiana.

Katharyn Woodard is a senior at Glenbrook School in Minden, Louisiana. She is the President of Glenbrook's Sports Medicine Club, Vice President of her class, and treasurer of her school's Venture Club program. Katharyn volunteers at the Joe LeBlanc Food Pantry and at the annual Minden St. Jude Auction. She was chosen as her school's delegate for the 2020 Louisiana Girls State program and was a recipient of the Knights of Columbus "Patriotic Award." She also won both the Assembly and Shreveport/Monroe Diocese levels of the Knights of Columbus Patriotic Essay Contest. As a member of LYAC, Katharyn hopes to work on many different problems affecting the youth of Louisiana and to show the importance of young leaders.