

Emily Grace Adams is a rising sophomore at Winnfield Senior High School. Being raised in a rural community and school, Emily Grace strives to be well-rounded and heavily involved in all she can while also being a 4.0 honor student. At school she is a member of 4-H, FFA, FBLA, Anchor Club, Tiger Mentors, Varsity Cheer, Winnfield Sports Media, and is a manager of the WSHS track and field team. Through her involvement in FBLA she has achieved a district championship in Intro to FBLA and placed 7th at the State Conference. Emily Grace is also heavily involved in both 4-H Junior Leaders and her school's FFA chapter. In 4-H she has achieved two state championships in the State 4-H Food Challenge while also competing nationally. She competed in the FCS/4-H National Championship in Consumer Decision Making. She and her team were named Reserve Grand Champions after being state champions at 4-H University, with her also being the 5th place overall national competitor. In her school's FFA chapter she is very grateful to serve as the Sentinel for the 2025-2026 school year. Emily Grace was a state champion in the FFA Agriscience Fair in the Environmental & Natural Resources category and then went on to the 97th National FFA Convention & Expo to place 7th. She was also a state runner up in Parliamentary Procedure. Her involvement and knowledge in FFA helped her on her path to State Literary Rally in Ag 1 after placing first in her district. Emily Grace also enjoys spending her time at the Winn Parish Dixie Youth Recreation Center striving to help her own community through serving concessions, hoping to better the program that she has loved for years. During her term on LYAC, she hopes to learn more about the issues facing Louisiana's youth today, bond with her peers, and work with Louisiana legislators to make a positive impact on Louisiana.

Addison Aucoin is a senior at Lafayette High School in Lafayette. She serves as president of the National Honor Society and has been a dedicated member of LHS's Beta Club. In 2023, Addison was selected to represent the state as part of a nationwide cohort of students in the Equity in Civics Youth Fellowship through iCivics. Addison is an active volunteer in her community and is especially passionate about fostering puppies and dogs for her local animal shelter. One of her proudest accomplishments was having her bill passed and recognized as outstanding at her very first LEG conference during her junior year. As a member of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council, she is eager to highlight the power of literacy and ensure that students across Louisiana have the resources they need to develop these essential skills.

Victoria Baez is a junior at Belle Chasse High School in Belle Chasse, proudly representing District 1. Throughout her high school career, she has actively participated in a wide range of clubs and organizations, including Student Council, HOSA, Beta Club, National English Honor Society, ESL tutoring, and her schools Peer Support Leaders. From the beginning of her freshman year, Victoria demonstrated exceptional dedication to both academics and extracurricular activities. Her passion for political science led her to becoming a committed member of the student council, where she has served since freshman year. Victoria's dedication to academic excellence and community engagement extends far beyond the classroom. Recently elected as Student Council President—after previously serving as Vice President—she is eager to foster a united and dynamic council. She believes that her role on LYAC offers a unique opportunity for young leaders like herself to contribute meaningfully to the political landscape. Aspiring to pursue a future career in law and political science at Tulane University, Victoria is committed to advocating for equitable education policies. As a first-year LYAC member, she hopes to promote policy reform and raise awareness to ensure that all students—regardless of background—receive the quality education they deserve.

Through her efforts, she aims to help build a brighter, more inclusive future for all Louisiana youth.

Brinkley Bennett is a senior at St. Joseph's Academy in Baton Rouge and a returning member of LYAC. She helped lead the execution of SCR 40, the establishment of a K–12 School Safety Task Force; testified before the House Commerce Committee in support of HB 570, a bill to strengthen app store safety standards for minors; and addressed the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to advocate for the favorable passage of the Freedom Framework Diploma Endorsement. A two-year State Board Member of the YMCA Youth & Government program, Brinkley served as Senate President Pro Tempore and was elected to serve as this year's Security Council Presiding Officer for Model UN. She is a YMCA Changemakers delegate and will compete for \$5,000 in funding to support LYAC's online safety initiatives and was 1 of 25 delegates chosen statewide to attend the YMCA Conference on National Affairs. Brinkley is the Deputy of Fellowship at the Institute for Youth in Policy, where she leads international civic education sessions and authored a published brief on school safety. She is a Heritage Foundation Lloyd & Bea Fellow, a Civics Unplugged Innovator, and a Ballotpedia Research Fellow. After a two-year independent study, Brinkley presented her research The Effect of Sociodemographic Factors on Party Affiliation and Social Issue Prioritization at a Department of Defense science and humanities symposium and placed first in her category at the State Science and Engineering Fair. She was recently selected as a Girls State Delegate and invited to join the American Legion Auxiliary. At school, Brinkley is Vice President of Model UN and active in National Honor Society, Beta Club, Spanish Club, Student Leadership Council, and Intramural Sports. Outside the classroom, she is an American Red Cross–certified instructor and Head Lifeguard at SELA Aquatics and was named 2024 Employee of the Year. As a LYAC member, Brinkley is ecstatic to work with her peers to advance school safety and amplify youth voices across Louisiana.

Jyllian Beran is a senior at Buckeye High School in Deville. She is very active within her school and community. Since 2018, Jyllian has been a member of Scouts of America and is a part of Troop 626 which serves the Kolin and Deville communities. She founded Troop 626 (G) and the first female patrol within the Troop. Currently she has earned the rank of Life and is actively working to receive her Eagle Scout rank. In her Troop she has served as Senior Patrol Leader from 2019 to 2022 and currently serves as Troop Guide. She is also a member of the Order of the Arrow within scouts. The Order of the Arrow is a prestigious scouting national honors society which has very selective and honored membership. Jyllian is an active member of the Staff Team for the Louisiana Purchase Council and helps organize BSA winter camp and summer camp at Camp Attakapas in Jena and Camp TL James in Monroe. Through scouting Jyllian strives to serve her community and other scouting organizations across the state. At school Jyllian is involved in Student Council, Outdoor Track and Field, Indoor Track and Field, Cross Country, and Band. She has many athletic and musical accomplishments while still excelling in academics and maintaining a 4.0 GPA. She attended District Literary Rally in 2023 for Economics and State Literary Rally in 2024 for Government, placing 4th at the state level. Jyllian is a strong advocate for the promotion of mental health awareness and its effects on the youth of Louisiana. During her time on LYAC she intends to support and promote the importance of mental health awareness for minors and accessibility to extracurriculars within schools.

Donald “Tre” Bishop, III, is a rising senior at Ascension Episcopal School in Youngsville. He is a

passionate and driven young leader, renowned for his unwavering commitment to environmental advocacy, community service, and academic excellence. His journey began in elementary school, where he demonstrated a strong dedication to his education and community service. Tre's impressive leadership skills have shone brightly throughout his endeavors. As a sixth grader, he spearheaded an innovative recycling program for political signs, demonstrating his commitment to environmental sustainability and civic responsibility. Collaborating and working with notable figures such as the governor, lieutenant governor, president of the senate, speaker of the house, senators, representatives, The Picard Group, and various local mayors and leaders in his community, Tre played a vital role in passing HCR70 in the Louisiana Legislature, securing unanimous support for the initiative. His efforts have gained recognition across multiple media platforms, extending his message of environmental stewardship throughout the state. This past year, he ran and passed HB648 through both the House of Representatives and Senate, increasing candidate qualifying fees and dedicating the monies to the campaign sign recycling fund. He will work with the secretary of state's office to promulgate the rules for this initiative. Beyond his environmental initiatives, Tre's dedication to helping others has been equally remarkable. He raised over \$3,000 for St. Joseph's Diner as a young child and has continued to rally support for those affected by natural disasters in Louisiana. In 2023, he showcased his extraordinary leadership by raising \$49,500 within three days to support essential medical services for those in need. Tre's contributions have not gone unnoticed; he has received numerous accolades, including the National Association of Secretaries of State's John Lewis Youth Leadership Award, recognized as one of Louisiana Public Broadcasting's Young Heroes, and named Keep Louisiana Beautiful Every Day Heroes Youth Leadership Award. His achievements exemplify his potential as a future leader, as he continues to demonstrate excellence in both academic pursuits and community involvement. As a student, Tre maintains top honors within his class. His resilience and determination to succeed have been a source of inspiration for his peers and mentors alike. Tre's journey reflects his motto, "Go out every day and change the world," and it is this relentless spirit that promises to make a lasting impact in his community and beyond.

Kelby Brown is a senior at Franklinton High School in Franklinton. She is the Captain of the FHS Cheer Team and holds leadership roles while actively participating in several campus and statewide organizations, including Mu Alpha Theta, Beta Club, 4-H, National Honor Society, Student Council, Youth Coalition, Talented Art, Talented Music, and P7. Kelby maintains a 4.0 GPA and is enrolled in multiple dual enrollment courses, demonstrating a strong commitment to academic excellence and civic engagement. She plans to major in Political Science with a minor in Computer Science, with the goal of pursuing a career in intellectual property law. As a member of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council, Kelby is excited to collaborate with fellow youth leaders across the state to push for real, actionable solutions, moving beyond conversation and into impactful change.

Duc Bui is a rising senior at Morgan City High School. He is the sole junior member of the nonprofit organization St. Mary Excel, where he is working toward building a climate-resilient community by supporting initiatives like the LaNERR proposal and the Atchafalaya Resilience Hub. He serves as Executive President of both Student Council and BETA Club, helping coordinate school-wide events and volunteer efforts. As a Tiger Ambassador, he mentors incoming students and helps them navigate the transition into high school. He enjoys volunteering at his local temple, where he is learning to cook a variety of vegetarian Vietnamese dishes. Duc is also an active member of his school's band, and he recently made the LMEA All-State Symphonic Band. In LYAC, he hopes to

uplift voices from rural and coastal communities and collaborate with peers across the state advocating for youth-led solutions to environmental and educational challenges.

Andrew Chevallier is a senior at Winnfield Senior High School in Winnfield, Louisiana. He is the class of 2026 representative at WSHS, and is also involved in other organizations such as 4-H, FFA, BETA, and FCS. He recently served as the 4-H state Parliamentarian and has served as a 4-H National Conference Delegate, where he got to present to the Department of Energy (DOE) about rising youth concerns and perspectives about the power industry. He hopes to collaborate with his peers on various issues within Louisiana, ensuring that all will thrive during his time on the Legislative Youth Advisory Council.

Purba Das is a senior at Lafayette High School in Lafayette. She currently serves as Student Council Executive Board Vice President and is involved in a wide range of academic, athletic, and civic activities. Purba is the Community Initiatives and Civic Engagement Chair on the Mayor-President's Youth Advisory Council and the Chief Justice for the YMCA Youth Legislature and serves on the Youth Nonprofit Board with Parish Proud. She is co-president of both Mu Alpha Theta and Science Olympiad, FBLA VP, and a member of National Honor Society, Youth and Government, Beta, Ping Pong, Serteens, and Quiz Bowl. She is also the captain of the LHS Varsity Tennis team and member of the LHS Golf Team. Purba is passionate about combining leadership, public service, and advocacy. As a member of LYAC, she hopes to advocate for youth voter education, equitable educational funding, and increased student access to mental health resources across Louisiana.

Everett Etié is an upcoming senior at Erath High School in Vermilion Parish. He is a driven and dynamic student leader with a passion for inspiring others to find their voice and lead with purpose. He is guided by the personal mission to "Be the light in the world." Currently Everett is serving as Louisiana State Beta Secretary. He led a statewide campaign that reached over 8,000 students and is now running for national office. One of his proudest accomplishments is becoming the founder and president of The KIDesigns Nonprofit, which has raised \$4,000 in its first year to support young artists and provide scholarships, including a \$1,000 award to a graduating senior. His leadership extends into the arts community as a board member of the Vermilion Arts Council and a guest speaker for regional youth events. Everett takes many roles in student leadership including serving as student council executive board president, junior and senior class vice president, and a member of the Superintendent's Advisory Council. Everett consistently leads with vision and integrity. He was also elected Earth High "district attorney" at the Vermilion Parish Government Day and represented his peers at the Louisiana Association of Student Councils and Beta Leadership Summit. Everett has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout his K-12 academic journey and earned a 34 composite ACT score, all while excelling in dual enrollment coursework. An accomplished artist and performer, Everett is part of the gifted and talented program in academics, music, and theater. He is a multi-instrumentalist and music producer. He has earned top state recognition in Beta competitions and received the True Blue Bobcat Award for character and academic excellence for three consecutive years. Through a blend of academic excellence, artistic expression, and servant leadership, Everett brings passion, purpose, and a proven record of impact to LYAC.

Gigi Frankowski is a senior at Ben Franklin High School in New Orleans. Gigi helps advocate for youth in her community by serving as a youth elder at St. Charles Presbyterian Church, where she

also babysits. She also advocates by working as a Peer Leader and youth council member for the New Orleans Children and Youth Planning Board. She helps to advocate for young women by working with her local Teen Reach Program at Planned Parenthood, and through an internship with Tulane medical students, she leads workshops and posts educational blogs. At her school, she served as the HOBY leadership nominee with continued volunteer work for the 2025 summer. She also runs her educational club called the Street Hall Journal, where she spreads information to her peers at school through slideshows. Throughout this time, she maintained a 4.47 GPA. She showed interest in the entrepreneurial field by winning the Drew Brees Trust Your Crazy Idea Challenge at the local, regional, and state level—winning over \$15k in scholarships. Her group's invention helped advocate for young women by creating a sustainable and portable solution to menstrual cramp pain in schools. Through LYAC, she hopes to make the legislative processes more accessible and transparent for youth in Louisiana.

Tristan Hampton is a student at East Saint John High School in Reserve. He is a member of the St. John the Baptist Parish Student Advisory Council and participates in the East Saint John CTE Welding Program. In addition to his school activities, Tristan also runs his own e-commerce business, showing his passion for entrepreneurship and leadership. He hopes to create more opportunities for students to succeed after high school by promoting career skills and real-world experience. Through his dedication and drive, Tristan aims to make a lasting impact on his school and community.

Radia Karim is an incoming senior at Lafayette High School with a strong interest in law, public policy, and healthcare. She is involved in a wide range of school organizations, serving in leadership positions across Youth and Government, Science Olympiad, BETA, FBLA, HOSA, and Student Council. She is a member of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council under Lafayette Mayor Monique B. Boulet, and serves under the Current Events and Policy committee. As a delegate at both Youth Legislature and Model United Nations, Radia has explored the intersections of law, advocacy, and global issues. She is also a licensed Emergency Medical Responder, and is an intern at Neurowave Diagnostics. As the District 3 Representative on the Legislative Youth Advisory Council, Radia hopes to uplift student voices, advocate for equitable education and mental health policies, and ensure that the youth are meaningfully included in shaping Louisiana's future.

Christian is a senior at Ouachita Christian School in Monroe. He is a member of National Honor Society, Key Club, Spanish Club, and Art Club. Christian is a youth baseball coach and an elementary tutor, assisting 1st-3rd graders twice a week with their math and reading assignments. Also, he has played two seasons of varsity football, and maintains a strict workout routine. Christian has worked at the Monroe Athletic Club for two years, where he currently serves on the membership sales staff. Additionally, he is interning for Walters, Thomas and Cullens Law Firm in Baton Rouge this summer. Christian is passionate about increasing financial literacy among young adults and is looking forward to working with the rest of the council.

Hunter Grace Layrisson, a student at St. Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School in Hammond, is honored to serve on LYAC for the 2025-2026 term. With a 4.0 GPA and a 31 ACT score, Hunter Grace also dual-enrolls at Southeastern Louisiana University, where she is recognized as a Scholar's Student and an Outstanding Writer in English. A dedicated leader and active

community member, Hunter Grace serves as president of the National Honor Society and secretary of the Beta Club, while also holding leadership roles in Key Club, National Spanish Honor Society, and founding the school's mock trial team. Her passion for civic engagement is further demonstrated through her involvement in the Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy, student council, and her volunteer work as a Youth Group Leader and Lector at St. Margaret Catholic Church. Hunter Grace has received numerous academic and service-based awards, including the prestigious St. Thomas Aquinas Gold Service Award (2023-2025), the President's Volunteer Service Award, and the Miss High School USA Queen title, where she was recognized for Best Interview, Most Photogenic, and Academic Achievement. Her commitment to advocacy was strengthened through her participation in the Leadership Initiatives Law and Advocacy Internship with Georgetown University. She also authored a creative pedestrian safety proposal for the city of Pontchatoula, demonstrating her initiative and drive to make a positive impact in her community. Through her service on LYAC, Hunter Grace looks forward to amplifying the voices of Louisiana's youth and working to promote meaningful legislative change across the state.

Melissa Le is a senior at Ruston High School (RHS) and a former Louisiana Middle School State Student of the Year and Louisiana FBLA State Secretary. She currently serves as the RHS Student Council President and Speech and Debate Speech Captain. Melissa is also a two-time LMTA State Piano Competition winner, small business owner, and a youth board member for the National Girls Collaborative Project, where she serves as co-chair of the STEM Youth Council. As Miss Louisiana's Teen 2024, Melissa advocated for her community service initiative, "STEM to Bloom: Investing in STEM Education for All," a mission she began in the fifth grade. As a Top 10 finalist and Overall Talent winner at Miss America's Teen, she has used her platform to speak at five state and national conferences, emphasizing the importance of investing in STEM education for all students. Additionally, she has placed three times at the FBLA National Leadership Conference. As a member of LYAC, Melissa hopes to collaborate with her peers to advocate for educational opportunities, particularly STEM initiatives, to ensure that the youth of Louisiana are empowered to thrive and contribute to the state's future.

Beija Lopes-Morgan is a rising senior at Mandeville High School in St. Tammany Parish. Beija currently serves as the sole Student Representative to the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, where she represents the interests of all students across the state. Beija serves on the Louisiana Association of Student Council's state executive board and as the District II Student Council Vice President. She recently finished her term as Student Body President and formerly served as Executive Board Parliamentarian and freshman class president. Beija is the current Social Media Manager and former Communications Manager of the Skipper Buddies Club, where she works with students with exceptionalities. She frequently volunteers with Special Olympics Louisiana and participates in the United Bocce Games. She also serves on the School Improvement Committee through the Lighthouse Team and is a Skipper Ambassador and Mentor, having toured and worked with over fifty new families and students. Beija is the recipient of Mandeville High's Outstanding Undergraduate Student Council Award (2024-2025) and Undergraduate Principal's Award (2023-2024). She is a Skipper Scholar, as she maintains a 4.0 GPA through a combination of gifted and AP classes, and a Southeastern Louisiana University Scholar, where she attends advanced mathematics courses on scholarship. She also is a member of the National Honor Society and has volunteered over one hundred hours in her community. Outside of school, Beija has

represented Mandeville High at the Louisiana Association of Student Councils six times and as an ambassador at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar. This summer, she is looking forward to representing Louisiana at the Aspen Institute's Rising Generations Summit in Washington, DC. Beija is excited to serve on LYAC for a second year and hopes to continue her mission of increasing youth civic engagement and improving educational policy.

Momin Mahmood is a sophomore at Destrehan High School in South Louisiana and a passionate STEAM advocate dedicated to public service, equity, and youth empowerment. He serves as Secretary of Interact Club, Art Club, and BETA Club, and is a Student Council Representative. He is also a member of Wildcat Robotics, Mu Alpha Theta, Wise Ecology Club, the Asian American Pacific Islander Club, and the Pakistan Club. Momin holds leadership roles on the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, Principal's Advisory Council, and the District Art Steering Committee, continuously advocating for student-centered change across his school and parish. As the sole student representative on the Social Emotional Learning Taskforce, he works with district leaders to enhance mental health support and life skills education. Outside of school, Momin leads two nonprofit initiatives: one providing over 250 hours of free academic tutoring, and another offering English literacy support to non-native speakers. He is also a successful game developer whose digital work has reached millions worldwide, and he personally funds and mentors young creators. His honors include first place in both the Congressional Art Competition and the state-level Doodle for Google contest, as well as selection to represent his school at the Louisiana State Literary Rally. As a member of LYAC, Momin hopes to expand STEAM access, amplify student voices, and champion youth-led innovation throughout Louisiana.

Lourdes Maristany is a junior at St. Mary's Dominican High School in New Orleans. She was named the 2022–2023 New Orleans Archdiocesan Student of the Year. Devoted to serving her community, she volunteers in the Oncology Department at LCMC and leads Happy Feet, a nonprofit that distributes new or gently used socks to homeless communities across Greater New Orleans. She is involved in a variety of clubs, including Student Council, Las Adelitas, and Mu Alpha Theta, where she placed 5th overall in the "Hustle" category at the Louisiana Mu Alpha Theta Convention. In addition, she plays piano and is a member of Dominican's varsity tennis team. As a member of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council, she hopes to strengthen civic education in her community and advocate for greater student representation in policymaking.

Sophia Montalbano is a senior at St. Joseph's Academy representing District Six. She is an active participant in YMCA Youth and Government, attending Model UN, Conference on National Affairs, and Youth Legislature, and serves as vice president for SJA's club. She won the SJA Woodmen of the World American History Award and placed 5th overall at State Rally for government. She studied the effects of microalgae on the honey bee immune system at the USDA Honey Bee lab and placed 3rd in the state science fair. She serves as SJA Mu Alpha Theta president. She plays on the state champion SJA tennis team and has lettered twice. She works as a student technician, repairing school computers part-time. She enjoys volunteer work, having completed 200+ service hours. She participated twice in the March for Life with the Baton Rouge Catholic Diocese and is a member of the Respect Life, Liturgy Committee, and Student Ministry clubs at SJA. She looks forward to working with other civically minded high schoolers to actively participate in the lawmaking process.

Cullen Murillo is a rising senior at Thibodaux High School in Thibodaux, where he exemplifies leadership, academic excellence, and a strong commitment to service. As the District IV President on the Louisiana Association of Student Councils' (LASC) state board and a Junior Counselor at the LASC Summer Workshop, Cullen actively empowers student leaders across the state. At Thibodaux High, he serves as Student Body President, Beta Club Secretary, and Senior Class Spirit Coordinator, all while maintaining 4.7 GPA through honors and dual enrollment courses. A passionate performing arts student, Cullen has served as the Tiger Band's drum major for the past two years and is a Talented Theatre and Music scholar. He is a member of the Drama Club, starring in major productions such as *Aida* and *Rock of Ages*. Cullen also contributes to the school community through his involvement in National Honor Society, Christian Club, and the morning announcement team. With over 150 hours of volunteer service, Cullen's dedication to his community has been recognized through accolades such as the Walter Irving Lanier Lodge's "Honesty and Integrity" Award. He has been a Student of the Year nominee for three consecutive years and earned the title in 10th grade. Through LYAC, Cullen hopes to help enact meaningful change and progress in Louisiana while expanding his understanding of government and civic leadership.

Cianna Newton is a rising senior at St. Scholastica Academy in Covington. She maintains a 4.5 GPA while enrolled in all honors, Advanced Placement, and dual enrollment courses. Cianna serves on the leadership board of the Active Minds Club, which strives to promote mental health awareness. She previously served on the National Teen Advisory Board for Bring Change to Mind during the 2023–2024 term. Additionally, she serves as the President of the International Culinary Club and the Public Relations Officer for the Baking Club, which raises funds for charitable causes. She also serves as a lieutenant in the Color Guard. Outside of school, Cianna volunteers weekly as a tutor at the James Samaritan Center and dedicates her time to various community service efforts, aiming to make a positive impact. As a member of LYAC, she is excited to collaborate with peers on issues facing the youth of Louisiana.

John Parker is a junior at Covington High School in Covington, Louisiana. He will be serving as the President of the National Honor Society in the upcoming school year. Along with being engaged in talented art since he was in the first grade, he also enjoys pursuing rigorous classes at CHS (DE, AP, Honors). John also finds much enjoyment in participating in his school's soccer and tennis teams, and being a part of weekly Fellowship of Christian Athletes meetings. In the past, he was also very involved in the Future Farmers of America club, where he held a position as officer for 3 years, while competing in numerous events such as the Parliamentary Procedure Leadership Development Event. There, serving as the team's leader and chairman, he led his team to be state finalist 2 years in a row. Being a member of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council, John plans to collaborate with other driven minds to improve retention of youth in Louisiana by providing better educational opportunities. He has already helped plan and organize community events that have dispersed hundreds of books to Title I schools. He hopes to make a lasting impact on students living in high poverty areas.

Brianna Peng is a rising junior at Benjamin Franklin High School in New Orleans. At school, she serves as President of Green Society, as well as her school's Science Olympiad team; she also holds leadership roles in Code for Change and Krewe du Cypress, a student-founded environmental nonprofit. As a recipient of the Bloomberg Philanthropies Youth Climate Action Grant, she has led

a city-wide thrift initiative, which diverted thousands of garments from the landfill and reached over 10,000 people through its fast fashion & sustainability media campaign. Peng has also served as Chair of the New Orleans Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, where she strengthened the council's impact and organization while deepening community connections. She is particularly interested in the environment, education, and the rights of marginalized communities, and works to create spaces where everyone feels seen, safe, and empowered. Peng consistently shares opportunities to help others thrive and remains dedicated to uplifting youth voices in leadership. As a member of LYAC, she looks forward to working with peers across the state to drive meaningful and lasting change.

Brandon Rowton is a proud Senior at Jena High School in Jena, where he has distinguished himself as a student known by most local officials. He is involved in many local matters, particularly taking interest with the LaSalle Parish School Board, where he plans to run for a seat upon graduation. As of current, Brandon is a member of the Louisiana Campaign for Tobacco-Free Living Next Era Youth Advisory Board, which is a board under the Louisiana Public Health Institute. He attends regular meetings that attempt to invent new or revise community outreach strategies for tackling harmful substance abuse in the state. In Mid-June, Brandon has been tasked with co-leading a web seminar where he will help moderate discussions on various issues related with teen substance abuse. Closer to home, Brandon has served in various leadership positions within Jena High School, previously being chosen as president of his local chapter of Job's for America's Graduates (JAG), parallel to serving as Sophomore Class President in the same year, representing JAG and his class at countless functions across the years of 2023 and 2024, displaying his commitment to class and community. Similarly, academically, Brandon participated Freshman year at the North Louisiana District Literary Rally at Louisiana Tech University, where he placed 1st in Civics. Sophomore Year, he participated in the Louisiana Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Conference in Lafayette, placing 4th in General Information (Current Events). Brandon is honored to have been chosen as a member of LYAC, describing his mission as, "An Opportunity to thrust the state of Louisiana into a state modeled by others as the youth capital of America, as well as represent my peers and community at the state capitol." This mindset is backed by his pledge to found a civic engagement nonprofit organization, the DCL Group, upon graduation, to serve LaSalle, Catahoula, and Concordia parishes. Brandon's key issue is civic engagement, and hopes to facilitate state programs incentivizing the creation of these groups to set the state of Louisiana onto a new milestone.

Amelia Stein is a senior at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in New Orleans, where she has earned multiple distinctions, including Highest Academic Achievement, AP Scholar, and excellence in World Geography and Chemistry. She has participated at the Louisiana State Literary Rally the past three years, achieving 1st overall in World Geography, 2nd in Environmental Science, and 4th in Chemistry. Amelia serves as president of her school's chapter of the National Honor Society, coordinating high school tutoring and the NHS service project. She founded the school's Academic Games Program, achieving multiple distinctions, including regional sweepstakes and 1st place in Propaganda at the 2025 Academic Games Leagues of America National Tournament. Additionally, she is an active member of the Quiz Bowl and Science Olympiad teams. She serves as a research assistant in the Department of Chemistry at Xavier University and has been selected to conduct research in the Summer Undergraduate Neuroscience Program at LSU School of Medicine. With a passion for service, Amelia has earned the President's Volunteer Service Gold Medal. She has worked as a summer camp counselor at St. Michael's Special School and Whole Kids Outreach, a

nonprofit committed to supporting the unmet health and developmental needs of youth in rural Missouri. She is also an instructor at Kumon of New Orleans, helping local students attain academic proficiency. As an arts enthusiast, Amelia is a long-time student at Southern Art Society and the founder and student leader of the Sacred Heart Knitting Club, teaching peers and organizing donation efforts for nonprofits. Amelia is looking forward to serving as a member of LYAC, where she will work to enhance educational opportunities and mental health support for Louisiana's youth.

Amelia Thompson is a rising senior at Baton Rouge Magnet High School. She serves as Secretary of her school's Youth and Government Club, Secretary of her school's French Language and Culture Club and Class Secretary for the Baton Rouge High Class of 2026. She is also involved in many other clubs at her school including National Honors Society, French Honors Society, International Cultural Education and Travel (ICE-T) club and Geopolitical club. She has attended numerous YMCA Youth and Government and Model United Nations Conferences throughout high school, with one of her co-authored resolutions recently passing during the MUN closing session this past year. She represented her school at the 2024 Louisiana High School State Rally for French Composition and won 3rd place. She has been an immersion French student for 12 years and takes an active role in Louisiana's cultural francophone community through many hours of volunteering at Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) events throughout her time in high school. She has played soccer for seven years and enjoys playing for her school's varsity soccer team, as well as club soccer at Baton Rouge Soccer Club. As a member of LYAC, Amelia hopes to work with her peers on various initiatives and is particularly passionate about expanding financial education and economics educational opportunities for Louisiana's youth, as well as expanding cultural awareness and protection programs.

Lincoln Trumps is a senior at Lafayette High School. He is president of the Speech & Debate Club and Lafayette High's Youth & Government Club additionally, he is Vice President of NHS. He was selected as Louisiana's YMCA Congressional Youth Advocate and met with Louisiana's delegation in Washington. He also serves as the highest state officer, Secretary General, for the Louisiana Model UN. Lincoln looks forward to working with other young people to foster an appreciation for Louisiana's unique culture.

William Vyas is a 15-year-old rising senior at Houma Christian School. He is an honors student with a 4.0 unweighted GPA. He was inducted into the National Honor Society his sophomore year, and qualified for this year's National Merit Scholarship Program. William is a 3-year varsity letterman in both swim (50m freestyle) and tennis (#1 singles), and qualified for the LHSAA state tennis tournament in 2024. Since his freshman year, he has represented HCS in Quiz Bowl and at the district and state LHSRA literary rally. He is a member of the Student Council, Worship Team, and Beta Club (where he currently serves as Chaplain). William is extremely active in Beta club, and has competed in both music and math at the state and national conventions. He was the Louisiana solo/duo/trio instrumentalist state champion in 2023 and 2024, and placed fifth nationally in 2023. In math, he placed 4th in the state in 2023 and 2024. In addition, William is a multiple-time LMTA district rally champion in piano, and has been awarded the LMTA Outstanding Musician Award six times. He was the 2023 LHSRA district rally champion in geometry, and placed 4th in his Geometry division at the LHSRA state rally. William is active in his community, and loves to perform at local community festivals and charity events, such as the Bayou Arts Fest, Rougarou Fest, and Toys for

Tots. William founded, leads, and continues to expand “The Future of Terrebonne,” an independent mentorship program that seeks “to connect today’s industry with the workforce of tomorrow.” William is thankful for the opportunity to serve on this year’s LYAC, and looks forward to highlighting the need for high school mentorship programs at the state level.

Coco Williamson is a 10th grader at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau. She is student class vice president and is involved in her school’s tennis team, Honors program, embroidery club, exchange program, and is an active volunteer at her local community center. In 2024, she was Youth Legislative Governor and has independently studied Louisiana Government in her Honors capstone class. She was nominated to represent her school in the 2025 Louisiana High School State Rally as well. She is a young business owner, maintaining her own baking business where she supplies cakes to her local community center and sells them individually to buyers. She has received the highest GPA in her class and is a recipient of the Duchesne Merit Scholarship, which is awarded based on dedication to school and social performance. This is Coco’s first year on LYAC, and she looks forward to making new connections with members and also extending her knowledge on issues pertaining to Louisiana’s youth.