

Charles Andrews is a junior at Benjamin Franklin High School. He is the treasurer of the Drama Club and the secretary of the Quiz Bowl Team. He has volunteered on a couple of election campaigns, including the recent re-election of State Representative Mandie Landry. He is a member of the honor society and has been invited to the district rally two years in a row for both Algebra II and Chemistry. In joining the Legislative Youth Advisory Council, he hopes to foster a spirit of lively debate while also maintaining an atmosphere of cooperation in order to create clearer and better legislation that will help the youth of Louisiana.

Brinkley Bennett is a junior at St. Joseph's Academy in Baton Rouge. Throughout high school, she has been involved in various activities and clubs, including the Ambassador Club, Art Club, Beta Club, Cooking & Crafts Club, Diversity Club, Drama Club, Liturgy Committee, Mu Alpha Theta, Spanish Club, Women's Empowerment Club, and Youth & Government Club. Brinkley was selected to represent her school in the 2024 Louisiana High School State Rally. She annually participates in the YMCA's Model United Nations and Model Youth Legislature, where she will serve on State Board as the President Pro Tempore for the 2024 fall conference. Additionally, Brinkley has contributed to her community by assisting with several local political campaigns in her district. She will continue to fulfill her passion for public service as a Head Lifeguard and Instructor at SELA Aquatics. She also enjoys playing volleyball and swimming competitively. As a member of this year's council, she aims to advocate for resources to enhance parental engagement in the early education of Louisiana's youth, addressing challenges in literacy and numeracy among students.

Jyllian Beran is a junior 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 of Louisiana. 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 the LYAC she intends to support and promote the importance of mental health awareness for minors and accessibility to extracurriculars at schools.

Bailey Burdette is an upcoming senior at Franklinton High School in Washington Parish. She loves to be involved in her school and community, striving to lead others and be a part of something bigger than herself. Within her school, Bailey serves as Beta President, Lady Demon's Soccer Captain, Mu Alpha Theta Secretary, National Honor Society member, Student Council Representative, and Talented Art student. She is the founder of Rise Up: Share Your Story, a sticky note campaign that

allows students to anonymously express their worries and respond with positive messaging in an attempt to promote mental health. So far, four schools in her parish have adopted the Share Your Storyboard. For the past six years, Bailey has worked with the Washington Parish Youth Coalition in the fight against substance abuse among youth. Together, they have established a Social Hosting Bill in Bogalusa that increases the penalties on adults allowing, hosting, and supplying alcohol to minors. From her involvement in the WPYC she traveled to Washington, DC to speak to not only the members of CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) but to Congresswoman Julia Letlow and the staff of Senator John Kennedy. In April 2023, Bailey was named the Hope House's Children's Champion for her efforts in her community and beyond. Bailey is honored and anticipates the positive impact that LYAC will bring to Louisiana in the coming year.

Arun Cacodcar is a senior at the Episcopal School of Acadiana in Lafayette. He is a returning member of LYAC. On LYAC, he enjoyed writing a part of the children's book *Thao, Pradeep & Carolina* for the council, which placed nationally in the Department of Homeland Security's Invent2Prevent Competition: as well as, providing an anecdote for the council's HB 577 testimony. Arun is fascinated by policy for youth, which is why he holds a prominent role in youth and government. As his school's president and a leader at the youth legislature conference, he seeks to understand how the intentions of a bill differ from reality. Arun loves service, being a member of the Brent Henley Youth Leadership club. He also serves as president of the Varsity Swim Team, Quiz Bowl team (where he placed top 5 at the state level), and Chess Club. Additionally, he participates in speech and debate, approaching each discussion respectfully and prepared. As a member of LYAC, Arun looks forward to addressing early childhood literacy rates with his council members.

Susanna Chiruguru is a senior at LaGrange Senior High School in Lake Charles. She is the President of the Student Council and a member of her local Mayor's Youth Partnership to work alongside the mayor and local executives in initiatives. Susanna is a three-time International Science and Engineering Fair Finalist, researching to introduce a peer-to-peer mental support initiative in her high school. She is a recipient of the 2023 Honesty and Integrity Award and presented her environmental research methods in efforts to restore the Louisiana coast at the 2023 Aerospace Medical Association Conference. She is passionate about the potential of youth at both local and state levels to combat issues like education, the environment, and civil injustices to create a better Louisiana for the next generation as a member of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council.

Spencer Croft represents District 3 and is a rising junior at Lafayette High School. He is an Eagle Scout earning sixty-three merit badges and currently serves in the leadership position of Jr. Assistant ScoutMaster. Spencer has performed ninety hours of community service for his Troop working on Eagle projects, making smores with senior citizens and countless hours with his local Knight of Columbus Organization. His Eagle Project was the construction and installation of wood duck boxes at the Acadiana Park Nature Station where he focused on the reintroduction of wood ducks into the local ecosystem. Spencer has taken piano for twelve years and has earned Superior at Piano Technique Tournament each year. He is a current member of Lafayette Mayor Monique Boulet's Youth Advisory Council and serves on the Community Outreach Committee. He has been a competitive swimmer with COLA for the last five years and competes on the Lafayette High swim team. As a second term member of LYAC, Spencer hopes to understand and participate in the

legislative process in order to focus on issues that are truly important to his state and community. The issues he finds important are deteriorating educational infrastructure and improving Louisiana education to be competitive with the rest of the nation and world. He is looking forward to working with his peers from across the state to achieve a better future for Louisiana students.

Owen Esté lives in Abita Springs and is a sophomore at Fontainebleau High School, located in St. Tammany Parish. He was recently elected class president and selected to serve on the school's student leadership team, "Building Better Bulldogs". He is the sophomore representative for FHS on the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, where students across the parish work directly with the Superintendent and turn their ideas into policies to make STPPS schools even better. Owen is a member of the swim and soccer teams and participates in Mock Trial. He also enjoys working with the Bulldog Buddies club, a club that promotes friendships between typical students and those with special needs. Owen is involved in the Talented Theatre program at FHS, and played roles in two productions this year, *Puffs* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. Owen is excited to be a part of LYAC and looks forward to working with teachers, administrators, legislators, and fellow members of the council to make Louisiana education better for everyone.

Phoebe Fannin is a junior at Zachary High School and a returning member of LYAC. At Zachary High, Phoebe is an active member of the mock trial team, quiz bowl team, French club, and Beta club. Since 2022, she has hosted a podcast called Curious Careers, which highlights various career fields. As a part of that podcast, she interviewed many different people, including a Foreign Service Officer, an ABC News contributor, and the Baton Rouge District Attorney. She has placed in multiple local writing contests, including The Historic New Orleans Collection's 2024 Student Writing Contest. Phoebe is excited about working with the council to make a difference for the youth of Louisiana.

Sarai Gaines, a 10th grader at East St. John High School in Reserve, is a shining example of dedication and a teen on a mission to impact change in our world. She holds leadership roles in several organizations, including the prestigious position of St. John 4-H Junior Leadership Council Vice-President and the Junior Varsity Cheer captain at her school. Sarai's commitment is further demonstrated by her active membership in the school's Interact club, a platform for giving back through service to the school and community. Additionally, Sarai is a member of the school's track and field team and the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council for St. John Parish Public Schools. She has served as a delegate for the Louisiana 4-H Citizenship Focus in Washington, DC, where she spent time cultivating profound civic engagement and leadership skills. Sarai is an excellent scholar who actively participates in her school and community while maintaining a 4.25 GPA. She takes pride in advancing on opportunities to work alongside her peers so that they can make their voices heard and continue to make a difference together.

James Giddens is a senior at Caddo Parish Magnet High School in Shreveport. He is a member of the National Honor Society and the *Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica* (Hispanic Honor Society). He is the number one rated foil fencer in the Ark-La-Miss Division of USA Fencing, representing the area in the Summer National Fencing Tournament and Junior Olympics. He is also a member of the *Equipo Nacional Chileno de Esgrima* (Chilean National Fencing Team). James is involved with various civic minded and ecclesiastical organizations. He volunteers at the Museum of American

Fencing, helping with both the museum operations and teaching novice fencers the art of the sport. He also serves as a liturgist with the historic Keachie Presbyterian Church in Desoto Parish and Good Hope Presbyterian Church in Frierson, LA. James is an “Army Brat” (a term of endearment). He was born in San Diego, CA. He lived and attended school in that city as well as San Antonio, TX, Fort Drum, NY and Natchitoches, LA due to his family’s service in the military. James is fluent in Castilian Spanish and spends part of the year in Santiago, Chile. While in Chile, he shadows a local environmental attorney and will attend some college level law courses this summer. He also interns with Hugo Holland, JD, assisting with criminal law cases being adjudicated by the Webster Parish District Attorney. James is a member of the Caddo Parish Teen Court, a program designed to offer first-time juvenile offenders the opportunity to be judged by a jury of their peers, accept responsibility for their actions, and make restitution for their offenses. James is an avid fisherman, spending as many free hours as possible on the local lakes and rivers. He is also an apiarist (beekeeper) and hopes to have his third successful harvest of honey in the autumn of 2024.

David Huang is a rising Junior at Baton Rouge Magnet High School and will be representing Congressional District 6 during the 2024-2025 LYAC term. He acted as his year’s Student Council Treasurer and now also serves as the Treasurer to the Baton Rouge High Youth and Government Club. David is active in Youth and Government and even presented during the group Plenary Session at the 2023 Youth LEG conference. He is also involved in other clubs such as Mu Alpha Theta and the East Baton Rouge Talented Visual Arts program. Over this past year, he has enjoyed contributing to a weekly student-run Bible study with over 50 active members. During this next term, David looks forward to working with his peers on LYAC, specifically on issues pertaining to education and cybersecurity in Louisiana.

Determined, dedicated, and committed are just a few words to describe Jerminy Kendrick. Born and raised in New Orleans, Jerminy is a rising senior at St. Mary’s Academy. She is the Vice-President of her Senior Class and sits on the Student Council as a representative. She has maintained a 4.3 GPA since freshman year of high school. In the summer of 2023, she worked as an intern at the Louisiana State Bar Association where she gained valuable experience in the law field. Throughout this past school year, she served as an intern for the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Crime Lab and the NOPD Junior Academy. This school year, Jerminy held a valuable position as a lead attorney on the St. Mary’s Academy Mock Trial Team. She won Best Opening Statement for the Mock Trial team. Jerminy is also involved in various clubs and organizations in school and in the community. She is a member of the Martin Luther King Chapter of the National Honor Society, the Mu Alpha Theta National Math Honor Society, SMA Book Club, St. Mary’s Academy Choir, SMA Math Club, and a member of the Cougar Media Production Team. She also serves as a volunteer coordinator for Cookie’s Heart, a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness about Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Her aspiration for the future is to become an attorney. As a member of LYAC, she aspires to collaborate with her peers on various tasks and serve as a voice for young people around the state.

Lucy Kincade is a rising junior at Central Catholic High School. There, she is president of Beta Club, a member of Key Club, as well as a track and basketball athlete. Lucy served as Vice President of LYAC the past year. She was on the I2P team that went to Washington, DC with their book “*Thao, Pradeep, and Carolina*”. Lucy is the founder and president of Louisiana High School Republicans,

and she serves on the legislative board for the organization. Lucy has a passion for getting youth involved in the civic process and is currently working with the Secretary of State, Nancy Landry, and her Senator Robert Allain on creating a youth voter workshop in Louisiana. In her free time, Lucy works at her local mayors office as his social media manager and youth coordinator.

Joe Lewis is a Sophomore at Winnfield Senior High School. Joe is a returning member of LYAC serving as historian last year. He is heavily involved in several organizations in his school and at the state level. In FBLA he serves as the District III State Vice President where he represents his district on the state officer team and organizes the various regional as well as state conferences. He is Civic Engagement chairman of the Louisiana 4-H Citizenship Board where we highlight issues that affect Louisiana as well as performing a myriad of community service activities. He has won state awards in 4-H, and FBLA, and is a state finalist in FFA. He also placed 3rd in civics at the state literary rally. Outside of school, he is heavily involved in church where he serves as a Jr. Deacon. He is looking forward to working with LYAC once again and further highlighting the issues that plague Louisiana's youth.

Beija Lopes-Morgan, a rising junior at Mandeville High School, was elected as the 2024-2025 Student Body President. She formerly served on the Executive Board as Parliamentarian and was freshman class president. She has represented Mandeville High at the Louisiana Association of Student Councils three times and was selected to be an ambassador at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar this summer. Beija is the Communications Manager of the Skipper Buddies Club, where she works with students with exceptionalities, and has volunteered at the United Bocce Games and Special Olympics. She serves on the School Improvement Committee through the Lighthouse Team and is a Skipper Ambassador, having toured over fifty new families and students. Beija is the recipient of Mandeville High's 2023-2024 Undergraduate Principal's Award and is a Skipper Scholar, maintaining a 4.0 GPA, through a combination of gifted and AP classes. She is also a Southeastern Louisiana University Scholar, where she will attend class this summer on scholarship. She is a member of the Mandeville High Tennis Team, Key Club, and National Honor Society, and has volunteered over fifty hours in her community over the past year. Through LYAC, Beija hopes to help Louisiana's youth become more involved in government and to improve enrichment and vocational opportunities for students with exceptionalities.

Miniya Malone is a senior at the Episcopal School of Baton Rouge. At her school, she is the Student Council Chief of Staff, Mu Alpha Theta President, and National Honor Society Vice-President. Outside of school, she serves on the state boards for both Mu Alpha Theta and Youth and Government. In Mu Alpha Theta, she serves as the District Governor for the Greater Baton Rouge area, and in Youth and Government she has served as a House Floor Leader and will continue to serve this year as a House Speaker Pro Tempore in the annual Youth Legislature conference. Born and raised in St. Croix, USVI, Miniya's passion for politics is inspired by her want for increased territorial rights. She shared this passion on a national level at the YMCA's Conference on National Affairs in 2023, where she passed a proposal on increasing territorial representation in Congress. Committed to academic excellence, Miniya competes academically in a variety of subjects, receiving honors such as the Harvard University prize book award, the title of National Finalist in the National Chemistry Olympiad, and multiple gold medals in the National Spanish Examination. As a member of LYAC, Miniya hopes to expand access of educational and extracurricular resources to low-income

Louisiana students.

Samuel “Paxton” Mounts is a Junior at Cedar Creek High School in Ruston. He has a cumulative GPA of 4.0. Paxton is a 3-time Varsity letterman, having lettered in powerlifting and twice in football. He earned LHSAA Academic All-District honors for the 2023 football season. He participated in the 2024 Civic Engagement Institute for Youth Conference. Paxton served for two years as an Ambassador for the Louisiana 4-H Shooting Sports program. Paxton is an avid marksman, having won the 2023 4-H Smallbore Individual and Team National Championships. He travels the country competing in smallbore rifle and air rifle matches with the goal of competing collegiately. Most notably, he was selected to compete in the 2024 Junior Olympic National Championships. Additionally, Paxton mentors younger marksmen on the Lincoln Sharpshooters rifle team. He also serves on the board of directors as Vice President of Lincoln Sharpshooters, LLC, a nonprofit organization focused on teaching firearm safety and marksmanship skills to local youth.

Emily Nevils is a rising senior at Winnfield Senior High School in Winnfield. Living in a rural community has instilled the importance of charity and service within Emily as she strives to take advantage of every opportunity available. Emily currently serves as the Area II President of Louisiana FFA, President of Winn Parish 4-H Junior Leaders, President of Winnfield Senior High 4-H, Student Advisor of the Winnfield FFA Chapter, and the Co-Captain of the WSHS Cheer Team. Emily is also a youth member of the Winn Parish 4-H Advisory Council and the Winn Parish 4-H Foundation. Emily is thoroughly involved in other vocational organizations including FBLA, NHS, Beta, Anchor Club, YVC, Healthy Living, Yearbook Staff, and Educators Rising. Through her involvement with FBLA, Emily has achieved state championships in Broadcast Journalism and Job Interview. Further, Emily was recently named the FFA state runner-up in Parliamentary Procedure and the state champion for Extemporaneous Speaking in which she will travel to Indianapolis to compete at the national level in the fall. Emily is also a National Champion for the National 4-H Mid-South Food Challenge Competition- a competition that combines culinary skills and critical thinking to devise new meals from foods found in food pantries with an emphasis on food efficiency, nutrition, and limiting food waste. Emily was also recently selected as a U.S. Senate Youth Program finalist for the 2023-2024 year. Additionally, Emily has served as a National Conference Delegate for Louisiana 4-H. Through this experience, Emily advocated and lobbied amongst representatives to increase funding for 4-H programs, address agricultural issues, and directly alter Article 7 of the Farm Bill. Aside from these accolades and positions, Emily has dedicated herself to various community service endeavors including creating a community garden, assisting with disaster relief donations, and hosting agricultural awareness events. Throughout her LYAC term, Emily hopes to spotlight issues facing rural communities such as educational disparity and food insecurity. Emily looks forward to a year of immersive experiences, new friendships, and the advancement of Louisiana based on the ideas of its future leaders.

Scarlett Osborn is a senior at the Episcopal School of Acadiana in Lafayette. She is a member of ESA’s community service council and part of Eco Club. Growing up in Cape Town, South Africa, she has always been committed to environmental sustainability and social justice. In Africa she participated in a wildlife research project, and interned with veterinarians at the Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust in Zimbabwe. Last year she completed a marine biology course and participated in a 4H marsh restoration project in the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana. A returning member

of LYAC, Scarlett hopes to work with her peers on environmental and mental health initiatives.

Elsie Poynter is a rising junior at Benjamin Franklin High School in New Orleans. She is a second year member of LYAC and a member of the Criminal Justice Committee. She excels academically with a 4.39 GPA. She is a third year representative on the Student Council. Elsie also participates in many activities outside of school. She was a member of the 3rd place winning team of the 2024 highschool Invent 2 Prevent Competition. She participated in reviving, planning, and coordinating Mission Ignition, a youth-led program under United Way that aims to get youth engaged in service to benefit our communities. She also participated in Beloved Community's Youth Participatory Action Research program and has used this training as a Youth Researcher with Tulane's Violence Prevention Institute and Center for Youth Equity. As the co-president of Benjamin Franklin's French Club, Elsie is also fluent in French. She has received the DELF B2 Diploma granted by the French Ministry of National Education, two gold medals in the French National Contest, the 2023 Prix d'Excellence from L'Union Francaise, as well as awards for French interpretive reading at the State Literary Rally. Elsie is thrilled to be able to serve another year on LYAC. She hopes to work with her peers on various initiatives and is particularly passionate about educational equity and resources for youth. She cannot wait to see what the council will accomplish this year.

Walker is a senior at Lafayette High School in Lafayette. He oversees the Security Council on the YMCA Louisiana Model United Nations state board and will attend the YMCA Conference on National Affairs in North Carolina in June. Walker is a Research Affiliate at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where he explores environmental chemistry. He has won the statewide Best Country award at Model United Nations two years in a row, awarded to one country yearly. He also won second at FBLA state in Public Policy and Advocacy, qualifying for the national conference. Walker was chosen as a Brent Henley Youth Leader in his community and will soon serve as a junior member on a local nonprofit board. He serves on Lafayette High's Student Council Executive Board as LASC conference coordinator and previously served as class secretary. He is also his school's Youth & Government Club President, Beta Club Vice President, and Quizbowl Vice President and co-captain. As his Beta Club Head Events Coordinator, Walker has connected 100+ members with service opportunities during the school year. He enjoys tennis and served as a Lafayette High Varsity Tennis Co-Captain, winning the parish doubles runner-up title and several local tournaments. He is a freelance graphic designer who has designed graphics and logos for groups and nonprofits nationwide while managing several club media platforms and websites at his school. Walker hopes to develop his passion for uplifting youth civic involvement with his time in LYAC across Louisiana.

Benjamin Ray is a senior at Walker High School. He has achieved his 1st degree black belt with Inspired ATA. He is also Cadet Staff Sergeant with JROTC Marine Corps at Walker High School. This year, he achieved awards in Civic Service, Longevity, Drill, Fidelity and Physical Achievement. Benjamin has also been sworn into the Louisiana National Guard and will be completing basic training this summer. Through these programs, Benjamin has been given an opportunity to give back to his community by volunteering his time and skills. During his second term with LYAC, he hopes to continue the work with his peers by focusing on diversity, mental health, and bullying.

Catalina Reichard is a rising senior at Mount Carmel Academy in New Orleans. She is a member of Varsity Cross Country and Track, and is a 4x D1 State Champion, winning the Indoor 3200m, the

Outdoor 3200m and 1600m, and the Cross Country Championships. She was named the 2023 Louisiana Gatorade Player of the Year for her achievements, and decided to sponsor Special Olympics Louisiana. Additionally, Catalina has served officer positions in Mu Alpha Theta, Teens for Life and MCCADD (Mount Carmel Cubs Against Destructive Decisions). She also sings in her school's celebration choir and is a member of the National Honors Society and Latin National Honors Society. She takes honors classes and all AP courses available at her school, and received College Board's Hispanic National Merit for her AP scores. Additionally, Catalina is the President of St. Pius X Catholic Youth Organization and is in charge of membership, social gatherings, and service projects. She is an ambassador of Teen CROSS, a youth-led program that organizes Archdiocesan-wide events. Catalina was also selected to attend the Youth Leadership Institute in Los Angeles for the Hispanic Scholarship Fund this summer. On LYAC, she is very excited to collaborate with such driven individuals from across the state and hopes to work with them to improve Louisiana youth's accessibility to education and financial security.

Jett Robinson is a sophomore at Loyola College Prep in Bossier City. He is actively involved in numerous extracurricular activities, including Mock Trial, Student Council, Art Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Business Club, Drama Club, Garden Park, LYRA, and Mu Alpha Theta. He interns for the LSUS Health 3D analytics department. He is a dedicated student recognized on the Honor Roll and as a Louisiana Scholar. Recently, Jett was accepted into the Louisiana Youth Council, where he aims to leverage his technical expertise to enhance council initiatives.

Easton Smith is a rising senior at Franklinton High School in Washington Parish and is excited to be returning as a LYAC member. As a 2023-2024 member of LYAC, Easton was honored to be one of the members who testified before the Senate Commerce Committee to help pass HB 577. He was also proud to utilize his art skills by co-illustrating and having his artwork featured on the cover of LYAC's Invent2Prevent children's book about sharing cultures, "*Thao, Predeep, and Carolina*". At Franklinton High School he serves in the National Honor Society, BETA, Student Council, Youth Coalition, and 4-H, among other school and community organizations. Easton competes in many sports for FHS, including football, soccer, powerlifting, and tennis. His work with the Washington Parish Youth Coalition influenced his advocacy for the nicotine and drug crisis throughout Louisiana and our nation. He was recently selected to be a voice for The Drug Free Communities (DFC) Evaluation Team where he will participate in youth focus groups to share perspectives on engaging youth in substance prevention work. Being an avid poultry enthusiast, Easton was honored to be named the 2024 Southeast District 4-H Senior Poultry Showmanship Champion. He hopes to advocate for poultry welfare reforms in the state. He channels his passion for civic engagement through managing the social media for Louisiana High School Republicans, where he speaks on his legislative and civic concerns. Easton is excited about extending his knowledge on issues concerning youth in Louisiana and collaborating with his peers and the legislature to make Louisiana an even greater state to call home.

Loralie Smith is a rising senior at River Oaks School in Monroe. She will serve as the Student Body President for the 2024-2025 school year. She recently received the Sewanee Excellence in Writing Award for her writing, merit, and leadership both in and out of the classroom. She is a 4.0 honor roll student and will be taking Dual Enrollment classes this fall. Loralie served on LYAC as a junior. She was recently selected as a Louisiana Girls State Delegate and was invited to join the American

Legion Auxiliary. She serves as Secretary on the Louisiana High School Republicans. Loralie is currently finishing her year of service as Miss Twin Cities Teen, a Miss Louisiana preliminary title. Loralie was recently nominated for the National Student Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. She is a member of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council Advocacy Network where she helps influence legislation for those with developmental disabilities. She also volunteers with the Autism Society of Northeast Louisiana. In April she was Congresswoman Julia Letlow's guest of honor at the Monroe Chamber of Commerce yearly luncheon where she assisted in a round table discussion with the community leaders of District 5. Loralie is a student athlete participating in Varsity Cheerleading as well as Varsity Track and Field. She is a two time All-American Cheerleader. Loralie competed in the Louisiana District Literary Rally, competing in Pre-Calculus. Loralie looks forward to working with her fellow LYAC members in the next year.

Neal Tandon is a senior at Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies. He is a returning member of LYAC and represented LYAC in the Department of Homeland Security's Invent2Prevent Competition for the council's children's book, "*Thao, Pradeep, and Carolina*," which placed 3rd and received \$1,000 in funding. Additionally, as a part of the council, he testified before the Senate Commerce Committee for LYAC's HB 577. Neal is prominent in the YMCA Youth and Government Program, serving as the head of Louisiana's Model United Nations Conference as Secretary-General and a YMCA Youth Governors Association member. He was one of 12 to receive the Outstanding Proposal Award at the YMCA Conference on National Affairs for writing policy for a FEMA Grant Program towards Natural Disaster relief, and was one of four to receive the Best Bill award at the Louisiana Youth Legislature Conference for legislation instituting higher pay to teachers. Additionally, he has lobbied U.S. Congressional Offices for policy on disease health, childcare, rural education, nonprofit funding, and housing infrastructure as Louisiana's Y-USA Youth Advocate. Neal serves as the Vice Chair of the Louisiana High School Democrats and the National AAPI Caucus High School Democrats, working on events/advocacy for the Democratic Party. Neal is a Civics Innovations Academy Fellow with the Civics Unplugged Program, serves as the Media Director for the Lyceum For National Conversation Program, and is a fellowship candidate for the Institute for Youth in Policy, where he will have the opportunity to publish his capstone and research projects with the organization. Neal serves as the President of Haynes' Mu Alpha Theta, Quizbowl Team, and Youth and Government Club. He is in Talented Theater and Varsity Swim, and enjoys dancing with his school's Bollywood and Bhangra Club. He is a part of his school's Academic Games Program and has won multiple National titles, recently placing 3rd in National Team Sweepstakes. Neal is a Jefferson Parish Superintendent's Student Leadership Council member and recently graduated from the Jefferson Community Youth Leadership Program. As a member of LYAC, Neal is ecstatic to work with his peers to address the teen mental health crisis and inequality.

Akeyna Travis is a rising senior at Ouachita Parish High School in Monroe. She is enrolled in numerous dual enrollment courses where she maintains a 4.0, and was recently accepted into the University of Louisiana at Monroe's Collegiate Program. Akeyna is the founder and president of the Ouachita Parish Youth Commission, a program designed to give youth an opportunity to be involved in Ouachita Parish's government proceedings while providing a space where students can share their thoughts and learn more about the community. She is also the media manager for her school's Student Government Association and an active member of the National Honor Society. Akeyna plays

varsity on her school's volleyball and tennis teams, ranking as a Louisiana State Girls Doubles Quarterfinalist her sophomore year. She is a member of the Cinderella Guidance Clinic, 4-H Junior Leaders, The United Nations Association of the USA, and Healthy Young People Empowerment. She is also involved in her school's Spanish Club and History Honor Society. Her interest in law led her to join her school's mock trial team as a defense attorney where she serves as co-captain for Team A. Her desire to grow in her leadership skills led her to graduate from the FBI National Academy Associates Youth Leadership Program as the 2023 Louisiana nominee and participate in PLAN USA International Youth Leadership Academy 2023-2024. Akeyna is a Yale Young Global Scholars Politics, Law, and Economics Program 2024 Scholarship Recipient, Questbridge Class of 2025 College Prep Scholar, and Top Teens of America Member. She has been invited to attend the Young Leaders Summit at the University of Southern California at no cost this summer to celebrate her scholastic achievements and learn about the college application process. She was recently invited to serve on the Workforce Development Board 81 Youth Advisory Committee to provide insight into potential youth opportunities that lead to successful careers. Akeyna plans to attend a four-year university, majoring in political science and business administration. After college, she aims to attend law school and earn her Juris Doctorate. Akeyna would like to start her practice in family law and aspires to be a political figure. She hopes to advocate for youth involvement in government and form meaningful connections throughout her time serving on LYAC.

Emma Vinson is a senior at Westlake High School in Westlake. Leading into her senior year, Emma has already earned 18 hours of college credit dually enrolled as a Sowela Technical Community College student. She is involved in many organizations including Student Council serving as President, BETA where she serves as President, Fellowship of Christian Students where she serves on the officer team, and Future Business Leaders of America. During her time in FBLA she has been the chapter Treasurer, Vice President, and a part of the leadership board. Emma further pursued leadership roles in FBLA by becoming a state officer, the District V Vice President, where she was in charge of leading District V for a year. Emma has also competed and won on the district, state, and national level of FBLA. She is also on the volleyball and basketball team at Westlake High School. Emma has so much love for her town and school that she takes every opportunity to show her spirit within her community. She is the Student Section Leader, cheer manager, the school mascot "Ramsie", and leads the school pep rallies and awards ceremonies. Emma was also selected as the Region V Student of the Year. Emma strives to be a well rounded individual, involving herself in a variety of organizations and gaining diverse experiences. As a member of LYAC, she hopes to further understand the legislative process while voicing the concerns of youth to make a positive impact on Louisiana.

Tyler Wood is a junior at Rosepine High School in Rosepine. He is an active member in many of his school's clubs including Student Council, Senior Beta, 4H, Interact, FFA, and FBLA, serving as an officer in FBLA. His sophomore year, he qualified for State FBLA Convention in Sports and Entertainment Management. He is also a member of the Quiz Bowl team, and has participated in District Literary Rally both his freshman and sophomore years, qualifying for State Literary Rally in his freshman year. In addition to this, he possesses a passion for volunteering, having delivered meals through Phillips 66 for the Calcasieu Council on Aging, and being an "A-HEC of a Summer" healthcare career volunteer program participant. As an athlete, he has been a member of Rosepine's varsity Cross Country and Track and Field teams since the eighth grade, qualifying for the state meet

in both sports multiple times. He has also been a member of the Fort Johnson swim team for five years. He has accomplished all of this while maintaining a 4.0 GPA, and he aims to bring that same level of dedication to the LYAC. On the council, he hopes to work with his peers to bring attention to many of our state's issues, namely those that concern education.