

Wicker, Hyde-Smith prompt students to apply for U.S. Senate youth program

Application deadline is Dec. 1 for \$10,000 college scholarship program

Press Release
U.S. Senators Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) and Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.) are encouraging Mississippi juniors and seniors involved in student leadership to apply for the 2021 U.S. Senate Youth Program (USSYP), an educational program that will provide \$10,000 college scholarships to two delegates from the Magnolia State.

A Dec. 1, 2020, application deadline has been set for the program's 59th annual Washington Week, March 14-18, 2021. Because of COVID-19 concerns, the USSYP 2021 Washington Week ONLINE will be virtual.

"The 2021 U.S. Senate Youth Program is adapting to our current environment and going virtual. This year's program will provide a unique opportunity for our state's young leaders to engage with our nation's highest levels of government," said Wicker, who serves on the USSYP Senate Advisory Committee. "I encourage every eligible student to apply for this special opportunity."

"Even as a virtual experience, the Senate Youth Program offers student leaders a chance to get firsthand exposure to our nation's leaders and the workings of the gov-

ernment. I encourage Mississippi's talented students to look at this valuable program and apply for the 2021 Washington Week," Hyde-Smith said.

Applicants must be juniors or seniors and elected or appointed student officers for the 2019-2020 or the 2020-2021 academic year. Because of COVID-19, students unable to serve in qualifying leadership positions for the 2020-2021 academic year may use positions held in the previous year.

The selected Mississippi delegates will be among 104 student delegates overall. The Hearst Foundation fully funds this program, which provides a \$10,000 college scholarship to each delegate.

The 2021 Washington Week ONLINE, like previous in-person programs, will connect USSYP delegates with the highest-level officials from each branch of government, including their Senators, the President, cabinet secretaries, a justice of the Supreme Court, senior members of the national media and other key policymakers.

Interested students can visit <https://www.usenateyouth.org/> for more information. The USSYP 2021 Washington Week ONLINE brochure is available here. To apply,

Happy Birthday

October 22 - Suzanne Langford Gillean, Maddie Langford, Justin Langford, Frankie Weems, Kelly Rucker, Scott Smith, Melinda Cochran Gantt, Jake Fletcher, Keith Ables, Christian Lashawn Rule, Melissa Upchurch, Sierra Travis, Darius Jones

October 23 - Renee Breazeale, Myesha Ross, Rodricka Green, Nadean Randle, Jimmy Rigby, Robert Dickard, Kim Mangum, Tina Smith

October 24 - Logan Engle, Travis Dunn, Alayna Hager, Brianna Dallas, Jerakaylah Moore, Marjorie Prince, Ty Love, Hadli-Kaye Dixon

October 25 - Tameka Thomas, Josh Mitchell, Ja'Marcus Ross, Will Burrell, Ray Ware, Hayley Pritchard, Tammy McAdams, Sabrina Miller, Betty Ray, Mary Ann Diffey, James Lloyd, Larry Ables

October 26 - Teresa Thomas, Jan Derrick McBride, Doris Carnathan, Jason McCain, Louise Boone, Becky Killebrew, Perri Ann Alford Huddleston, Hampton Jones, Grady Ables, Patrick Sumerall, Brent Zachery

students should also contact their high school principal or Mississippi's state selection administrator:

Sandra Hilliard
Education Specialist, Sr.
Mississippi Department of Education
shilliard@mdek12.org - (601) 359-2213

Hospital in the Mississippi Delta hires new chief executive

Associated Press
A rural Mississippi hospital that has faced financial losses the past several years is hiring a new CEO who has been the top executive at hospitals in Virginia, Georgia and Alabama.

Jason A. Studley begins his new job at Greenwood Leflore Hospital on Oct. 19, the Greenwood Commonwealth reported.

Studley, 43, was selected after a nationwide search that included more than 200 applicants, said Harris Powers Jr., chairman of the hospital board.

Studley will become the **October 27** - Jodi Pemberton, Bo Bell, Luke Allen, Bubba Stewart, Bubba Ingram, Addie Brooke Ledbetter, Beau McBride **October 28** - Josh Murtagh, Barbara Dixon, Renette Howard, Damian Proctor, Genette Pierce

Happy Anniversary

October 23 - Chris and Crystal McFarland, Evan and Tessa Horn

October 24 - Scott and Tara Howell

October 25 - Will and Anna Browning, Hugh and Brenda Fleming

October 26 - Ronnie and Suzanne Ables, Dwayne and Tonya Payton

October 28 - Hugh and Earline Newman, Josh and Samantha Rodgers

bring case numbers down.

"I know a lot of y'all will say, 'Why don't you just throw that statewide mask mandate back on and everything will be fine.' Go look at the data in Arkansas. Go look at the data in Alabama. Never have taken their statewide mask mandates off, and their curve looks much worse than ours," he said.

Reeves said his primary concern is making sure Mississippi's health care system is able and prepared to care for both coronavirus and non-coronavirus patients.

"Our goal in Mississippi has never been to completely eradicate the virus. It has never been to completely eliminate the virus, because we do not believe — or at least I don't — that that's a realistic goal," he said. "Our goal has always been to protect the integrity of our healthcare system."

The state Health Department said Monday that Mississippi, with a population of about 3 million, has reported more than 110,500 confirmed cases and at least 3,171 deaths from COVID-19 as of Sunday evening. That's an increase of 586 confirmed cases and zero deaths from numbers reported over the weekend.

fourth CEO of the Greenwood hospital in less than three years. He succeeds Gary Marchand, who has been as interim CEO since October 2019. Marchand is a longtime Gulf Coast hospital administrator who came out of retirement to take the position but never expressed interest in the permanent job.

The Greenwood hospital is in one of the poorest parts of the U.S. with large numbers of uninsured people. The hospital lost more than \$44 million from 2016 through 2019, although about \$14.5 million of the loss was because of a change in accounting standards.

Through the first 11 months of the fiscal year that ended Wednesday, the hospital was showing a net loss of \$755,000. It has received

about \$15.5 million in coronavirus relief grants, mostly from the federal government.

Studley is a Missouri native with 20 years of experience in health care administration. His most recent job was as president of Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital in South Boston, Virginia. He resigned in December after less than two years in the position.

Studley previously spent more than eight years with Community Health Systems, one of the largest hospital companies in the U.S. He was president and CEO of Trinity Hospital, a 231-bed facility in Augusta, Georgia, for five years and CEO at L.V. Stabler Memorial Hospital, a 72-bed facility in Greenville, Alabama, for two years before that.

Notice of Closure:
The Bartee Family Health Clinic, located in Goodman, Mississippi, which has been closed due the pandemic, will now close permanently on October 27, 2020. Dr. Harry A. Bartee Sr. extends much gratitude to the many patients who utilized his services over the past years. He also would like to extend thanks to the patients who received his services while in practice in Tchula and Lexington, Mississippi. Over the past few months all efforts have been made to extend services by telephone and hopefully have reached the majority of patients. Dr. Bartee states that he hopes that his patients will continue to be provided with quality health care that is available in Holmes County.

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After mandate repeal, masks required again in nine counties

Associated Press
Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves announced Monday that he is imposing a mask mandate for public indoor spaces and other restrictions in nine counties to curb the spread of coronavirus amid weeks of steadily rising case numbers.

"Here in Mississippi, we have seen this before," Reeves said, referencing a spike in cases the state saw in the summer. "We know what can happen if we allow this to get out of control, so want to be proactive to prevent that from happening."

Reeves said explicitly that he does not think what is happening in Mississippi qualifies as a spike.

"We've seen a relatively slow, slight increase over the last six weeks, which has really been exacerbated over the last 10 or 11 days," he said.

In the past week, Mississippi had two days when the number of new cases reported in one day reached more than 1,000, something the Department of Health hadn't reported since mid-August. The seven-day rolling aver-



GOV. TATE REEVES

age of daily new confirmed cases in Mississippi has risen from 518 per day on Oct. 4 to 725 cases on Sunday, according to Johns Hopkins data analyzed by The Associated Press.

Reeves' method of imposing restrictions for counties by case count is similar to how he approached restrictions at the start of the pandemic. The Republican governor first resisted imposing a statewide mask mandate, focusing instead on individual counties with high cases, until cases were spiking throughout the state in early August. Reeves' statewide mask mandate went into ef-

fect on Aug. 4 and was repealed on Sept. 30.

He said the new restrictions will be imposed in counties that have 200 recent confirmed cases of coronavirus or 500 confirmed cases per 100,000 residents. Exceptions to that rule are counties with 200 recent cases that have fewer than 200 cases per 100,000 residents.

The counties where restrictions will be imposed are DeSoto, Jackson, Lee, Forrest, Lamar, Itawamba, Neshoba, Claiborne and Chickasaw.

In those nine counties, masks will be required indoors in public when social distancing is not possible. Social gatherings will be limited to 10 people indoors and 50 outdoors.

Additionally, Reeves said he is requiring that hospitals statewide reserve 10% of total space for COVID-19 patients. If hospitals fail to comply with this order, they will not be allowed to perform non-urgent elective procedures.

Reeves said no single "silver bullet" solution exists to

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