



## New Jersey Senate Democrats

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### **Sweeney Honors ‘Youth of the Year’ Candidates**

*Nominees Are From 18 Local Boys & Girls Clubs From Across NJ*

**Trenton** – Senate President Steve Sweeney today attended a ceremonial State House luncheon honoring 18 ‘Youth of the Year’ candidates from across New Jersey. The event, held annually by the Boys & Girls Clubs of New Jersey, recognizes young men and women from various backgrounds for their achievement in leadership, service, academic excellence and dedication to living healthy lifestyles.

“There is nothing more inspiring than to meet and talk with these amazing young people who are giving so much back to their communities,” said Senate President Sweeney. “New Jersey’s future depends on the next generation of young adults remaining engaged and committed to keeping the Garden State the best place to live in the country. After meeting these 18 incredible individuals, I know we are in great hands for years to come.”

The Youth of the Year Leadership Program celebrates Boys & Girls Club members from across New Jersey. Each year, local Boys & Girls Clubs select a member, ranging in age from 14 to 18 years old to participate in the program. Honorees receive scholarships ranging from \$2,000 (for each ‘Youth of the Year’ candidate) to \$15,000 (for the state winner). Two individuals will be selected to represent New Jersey in the Boys & Girls Club’s regional and national competitions.

“A tremendous thank you to Senate President Sweeney for his participation at today’s New Jersey Youth of the Year Legislative luncheon event. We are incredibly proud of all of our Youth of the Year finalists from across the state. Each one of them is living proof that Boys & Girls Clubs are inspiring and enabling young people to achieve great futures,” said Susan Haspel, State Director, Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey. “These exceptional Club teen leaders will serve as spokespeople for young people, sharing their inspiring stories and leading the way to transform communities for the better.”

This year’s candidates include residents of 12 counties across New Jersey. Among the nominees are student athletes, community volunteers, honor roll students, members of the National Honors Society and student council leaders.

To learn more about the Boys & Girls Clubs of New Jersey click on the following link:

<http://bgcnj.org/>

*Please see the attached photos from today’s event*

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