



## ST MONICA'S COLLEGE

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **STUDENT OFF TO USA FOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

St Monica's College Epping is pleased to announce that Year 11 student Rachael Davies has been selected to take part in the Youth Leadership Program auspiced by the United States Embassy.

Rachael has been selected to travel to the USA to take part in this intensive 21 day program visiting Lake Tahoe in California and Washington DC.

St Monica's College Principal, Mr Brian Hanley, congratulated Rachael on her achievement. "This is a very prestigious program that brings together 18 youths from Australia and New Zealand in an intensive educational experience. Rachael has shown she is an exceptional student willing to take on extra challenges and this success is well deserved."

The US Embassy describes the program as follows.

*The goals of the program are to promote mutual understanding between the people of the U.S., Australia and New Zealand; prepare youth leaders to become responsible citizens and contributing members of their communities; significantly influence the attitudes of the leaders of a new generation; and foster relationships among youth from different ethnic, religious, and national groups and create networks of youth leaders, both within the participating countries and internationally. The primary themes for the exchange program are civic education (citizen participation, grassroots democracy, and rule of law); community service; and youth leadership development. The secondary theme for the exchange program is environmental issues and climate change. Adult participants will also focus on youth mentorship.*

Rachael said she is excited to have the opportunity. "I am humbled to be selected to partake in this amazing program to develop leadership skills while working with fellow students from Australia, New Zealand and the USA. I am very excited and look forward to sharing the learnings with my fellow students at St Monica's College Epping when I return."

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