

Student Voices

LIV BIRNSTAD, 18

Harvard University
Washington, DC

Liv Birnstad, a freshman at Harvard University, is a passionate advocate for education and social causes. Liv works with the Boston Debate League, coaching high school students in fundamental debate and writing skills.



During high school, she served two terms on the D.C. State Board of Education where she advocated for student interests, and influenced educational policies. Liv was also a valued member of her high school's Queer and Trans Alliance, contributing to the creation of annual school-wide professional development sessions

for teachers and staff that fostered inclusivity and understanding.

ABIGAIL SINGH, 17

Bennington College
Brooklyn, NY

Abigail Singh is a rising freshman at Bennington College in Vermont. She is studying writing and pursuing a journalism degree. She took part in a program on social change at Tufts University. She also created a high school club to help students connect to their liberal arts passions, and to generate a more diverse and inclusive environment for students to write about community and neighborhood issues through their school newspaper. She aims to be a voice that students like herself can look up to.



ARIVUMANI SRIVASTAVA, 19

Pomona College
Bowling Green, KY

Arivumani Srivastava is a rising sophomore at Pomona College from Bowling Green, Kentucky, majoring in economics. He also works as the development partner for the Kentucky Student Voice Team, where he cultivates and maintains funder and partner organization relationships for the education advocacy nonprofit. Arivumani aspires to improve quality education access across the nation and globally, travel the world, and try some good food along the way.



ALEJANDRO BLANCO, 20

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign
Chicago, IL

Alejandro Blanco is a rising junior majoring in advertising at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His hopes and endeavors are aimed at improving and inspiring the world through future advertisements and marketing campaigns on social media channels.



MAYA MURALI, 17

Hebron High School
Carrollton, TX

Maya Murali lives in Texas and is a senior at Hebron High School in the Lewisville Independent School District. She is interested in studying environmental science next year in college, and she hopes to work in environmental policy one day. Outside of school, she serves as the communications team lead at the Sunrise Dallas Youth Hub, a movement of young climate justice activists.

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ARSHIA PAPARI, 18

The University of Texas at Austin
Allen, TX

Arshia Papari is a rising freshman at University of Texas at Austin majoring in government. With a passion for politics and policy, Arshia began his political journey in the summer of 2022; motivated by his own educational experiences, he led testimony at the Texas State Board Of Education for a censor- and fallacy-free social studies curriculum. Arshia continued these efforts throughout the 88th Texas legislative session, creating legislation to address these issues. Arshia continues his work in educational politics and policy, and is also continuing broader political actions with several legislative and political groups.



JAYLEN ADAMS, 18

Columbia University
Charlotte, NC

Jaylen Adams is a sophomore at Columbia University studying political science and creative writing. She is an executive fellow for Our Turn, an education reform nonprofit, where she works on storytelling, administrative work, and making schools into the places they were meant to be. In the next few years, she plans to apply to law school and perhaps pursue a master's degree.



KESAR GABA, 19

Queens College
Haryana, India

Kesar Gaba is currently a sophomore completing her bachelor's degree in psychology at Queens College. She loves reading books and writing poetry. She is also very dedicated to community service. She hopes to someday change how people view mental health and bring more awareness to the issue.



LAZULI CLARK, 17

KIPP Academy Lynn
Collegiate
Lynn, MA

Lazuli Clark is a rising senior at KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate in Massachusetts, where she projected to be the valedictorian. In the future she hopes to become a professional opera singer. She spent considerable time at Boston University's Tanglewood Institute and hopes to further involve herself in the music world as a student ambassador for the Handel and Haydn Society in 2023-24.



BRADY PHAN, 17

Clarkston High School
DeKalb, GA

Brady Phan is a senior at Clarkston High School in the DeKalb County School District in Georgia. He plans to attend college and pursue a bachelor's degree in computer science. His current extracurriculars include the Technology Student Association, Future Business Leaders of America, Coding Club, and Leaders of Tomorrow. He wants to inspire those around him to be better people and to leave an impact on the community.

