



NEWS RELEASE

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Two 2021 Towson High graduates in South Korea studying on U.S. Department of State scholarships

Towson, MD -- Helen Wang and Kayla Yup, 2021 graduates of Towson High School, are now in Seoul, South Korea, studying the Korean language. Wang and Yup, who both participated in Towson High's Law and Public Policy Program, were awarded 2021 National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) scholarships to study for seven weeks in South Korea.

NSLI-Y is a program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) that promotes critical language learning among American youth.

Wang and Yup, competitively selected from approximately 2,500 applicants from across the United States, are two of more than 500 students selected for a NSLI-Y summer program. Wang and Yup are among more than 50 students participating in in-person NSLI-Y programs; all other NSLI-Y programs this summer are virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While in South Korea, the American students are immersing themselves in the local culture and communities by living with host families, studying the Korean language, and interacting with their Korean peers.

In 2020, Wang and Yup earned NSLI-Y Virtual Summer Intensive scholarships to study the Korean language for five weeks.

NSLI-Y is part of a multi-agency U.S. Government initiative launched in 2006 to improve Americans' ability to communicate in select critical languages, advance international dialogue, and provide Americans with jobs skills for the global economy. Many NSLI-Y alumni go on to pursue education and careers vital to U.S. national security and credit the program experience with helping them improve their academic, leadership, and cross-cultural communication skills.

NSLI-Y is administered by American Councils for International Education in cooperation with AFS-USA, American Cultural Exchange Service, Amideast, CIEE, iEARN-USA, the Russian American Foundation, Stony Brook University, the University of Delaware, and the University of Wisconsin.

[Applications for 2022-23 NSLI-Y programs](#) will be available in late summer.

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