

## **LOCAL MIDDLE SCHOOL HIGH-ACHIEVER SELECTED FOR STATE**

### **LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

**National Young Leaders State Conference in Illinois Honoring Area's Most Highly-Acclaimed Students to be Held This Spring**

This Spring, local middle school students, Miss Melissa Nava and Miss Emmeline Paintsil will join a very select group of some of the most highly acclaimed students in Illinois to take part in an extraordinary leadership conference sponsored by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC)

The National Young Leaders State Conference (NYLSC) in Illinois honors and recognizes outstanding middle school students for their scholastic achievement and leadership potential. Enrollment requirements to attend the Conference are strict, mandating that every scholar who attends must be personally nominated to attend by a teacher or selected based upon extraordinary academic achievement. Ms. Debra LeBlanc of Burr Ridge Middle School nominated Miss Melissa Nava and Miss Emmeline Paintsil for NYLSC.

“The aim of NYLSC is to inspire students to recognize their own leadership skills, measure their skills against those their peers and return home with newfound confidence in their ability to serve as future leaders,” said Michael Lady, Executive Director of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council.

The intense four-day curriculum focuses on eight core leadership power tools: communication, conflict resolution, decision making, goal setting, group dynamics, leadership techniques, project management and self-awareness. With the insight and guidance of highly trained facilitators and the assistance of their peers, scholars work within each activity to hone their plan of personal leadership.

CYLC is an educational organization dedicated to identifying and nurturing leadership in the nation's highest-achieving students. Since 1985, the council has inspired more than 200,000 young people to achieve their full leadership potential. Currently, close to 400 members of the U.S. Congress serve on the CYLC Honorary Congressional Board of Advisors and more than 50 embassies participate in the Council's Honorary Board of Embassies.