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Senator Carpenter Announces the Acceptance of Jessica Ojeda-Barojas to the 2020 Senate Scholar Program

(MADISON)—Today, Senator Tim Carpenter announced today that Jessica Ojeda-Barojas, a local high school student, has been chosen to participate in the 2020 Senate Scholar Program. High school juniors and seniors from around the state of Wisconsin will be participating in a week-long, intensive program at the State Capitol in January, February, and March.

The Senate Scholar Program's rigorous curriculum is two-fold. First the students are introduced to many facets of the legislative process. They meet with legislative support agencies, legislative staff, the Governor's staff, a Supreme Court Justice, the media, lobbyists and University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty members. The students then put their knowledge into action. When the Senate is on the floor, Scholars staff the session under the direction of the Senate Sergeant at Arms' office. The week's events culminate in a Senate Scholar committee hearing on a bill that the students have drafted.

"I am greatly looking forward to meeting the Senate Scholar from the 3rd Senate District, she comes to us with an exceptional resume and very strong endorsements from her teachers at iForward Online Public Charter School." Said Carpenter.

"Her experiences volunteering at Allen-Field Elementary School, and her promotion of her personal values and community as a young woman, backed up with glowing testimony from her teachers, show me that she is a dedicated citizen and will be an excellent Senate Scholar. She is already an asset to our community and state, and I am confident that her capabilities and confidence will only grow.

"She has told me that it is her dream to become a teacher, so that she can help others achieve their goals in life. To me, this is a very admirable devotion. I hope that as she visits our state capital and learns about our government, and receives an inside look into many different public policy agencies and programs, that she will learn new strategies and avenues she can use to achieve *her* goals.

"My only stipulation that I gave her as a participant in the program, was that she must promise to vote with her conscience in every election that she can!

"Congratulations, Jessica! Welcome to the Senate!"

For more information about the Senate Scholar Program, contact Senator Carpenter at <u>Sen.Carpenter@legis.wi.gov</u> or (608) 266-8535 or toll free at (800) 249-8173

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