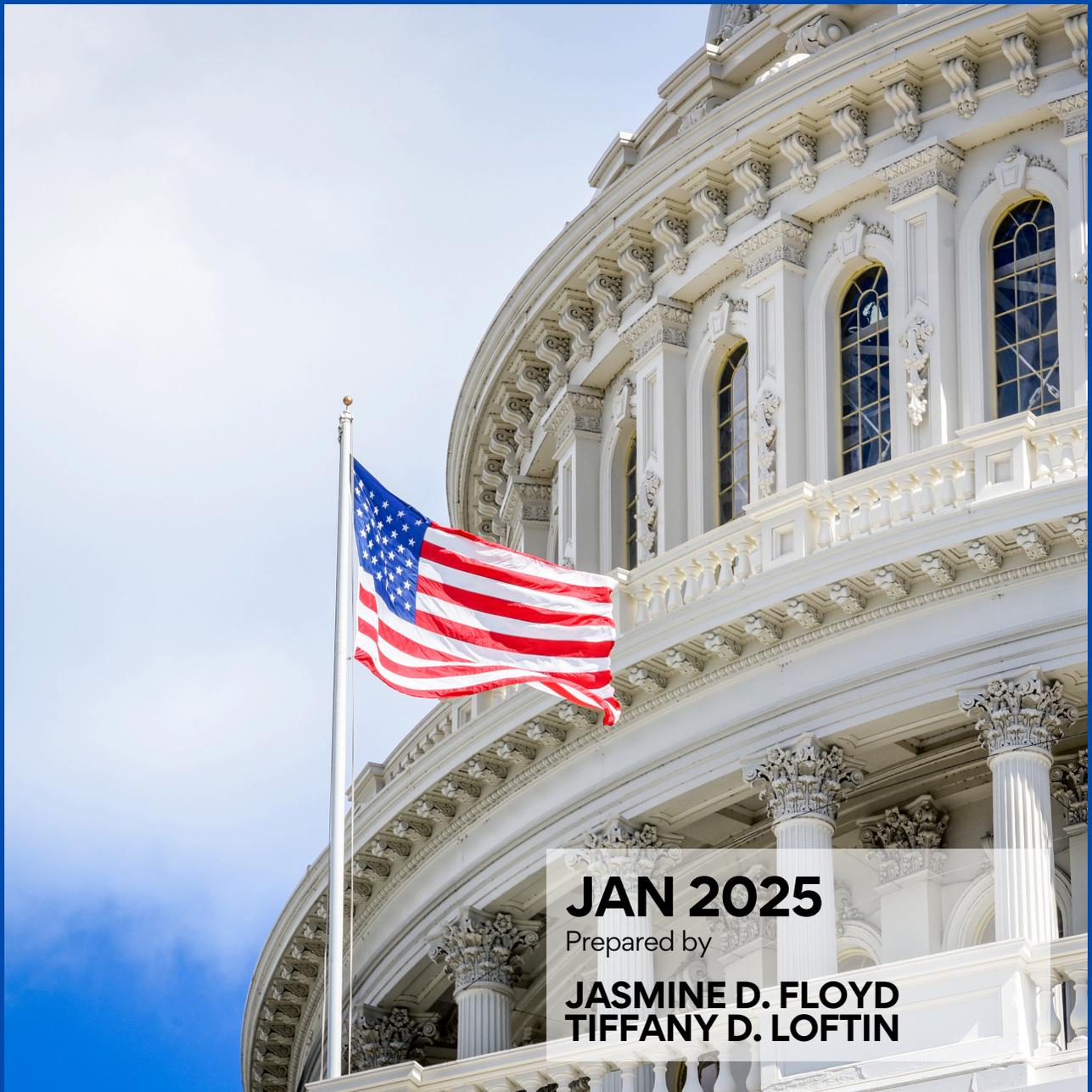


UNITED STATES STUDENT ASSOCIATION

2024

END OF THE YEAR REPORT



JAN 2025

Prepared by

**JASMINE D. FLOYD
TIFFANY D. LOFTIN**

LETTER FROM THE ADVISOR



**TIFFANY DENA
LOFTIN**

USSA Advisor

USSAF Board Member

The United States Student Association (USSA) changed my life. It taught me the importance of community, the transformative power of organizing, and the necessity of using a radical imagination. Over the past year, I have been studying the spirit that unites and empowers student leaders across state lines. It has been a privilege and a labor of love to serve as an advisor and educator to the next generation, sharing the history of a movement I was proud to be part of.

Each generation brings a unique perspective, and I continue to learn from the students I work with. I am excited to see how another year of growth will advance our movement and its impact on our country and the world. This document is a testament to the advocacy and volunteer efforts we've accomplished together—even while operating entirely in a virtual environment.

Special thanks to Amine El Moznine, Jasmine Floyd, Astra Taylor, the Debt Collective and the USSA Foundation Board for their exemplary leadership, and to the students who remain steadfast in their belief that Education is a Right!
I've got your back!



HOW WE GOT HERE

In 2024, the University of California Student Association delegated the federal legislative director to convene the other Statewide Student Associations that still existed. They attempted to gather in Washington DC in April to rebirth the United States Student Association. The capacity to coordinate that gathering was low and attendance was small but the students who did attend decided that they were going to begin organizing conversations with their peers across the country. So in 8 months they went from 3 states to 8, from 4 attendees to 27 and here we are at the top of a new year.

We could only gather virtually, we dug up old documents, logged into old emails, interviewed alumni, and revived the USSA Foundation board.

Check out our end of the year report to see our new beginnings. The US Student Association is led by a new generation of elected leaders, community leaders, and activists. Now more than ever, we need a national student voice, we get stronger and bigger from here.

PAID FELLOWSHIP



Fellowship Program Launch: Tiffany D. Loftin, as advisor, secured a sponsor, the Debt Collective, to receive funding to pay three fellows for 5 months.

- Jasmine D. Floyd, M.S. (Organizer and Higher Education Administration)
- Collin Bannister (President of Washington Student Association)
- Milagros Heredia (Arizona Student Association)

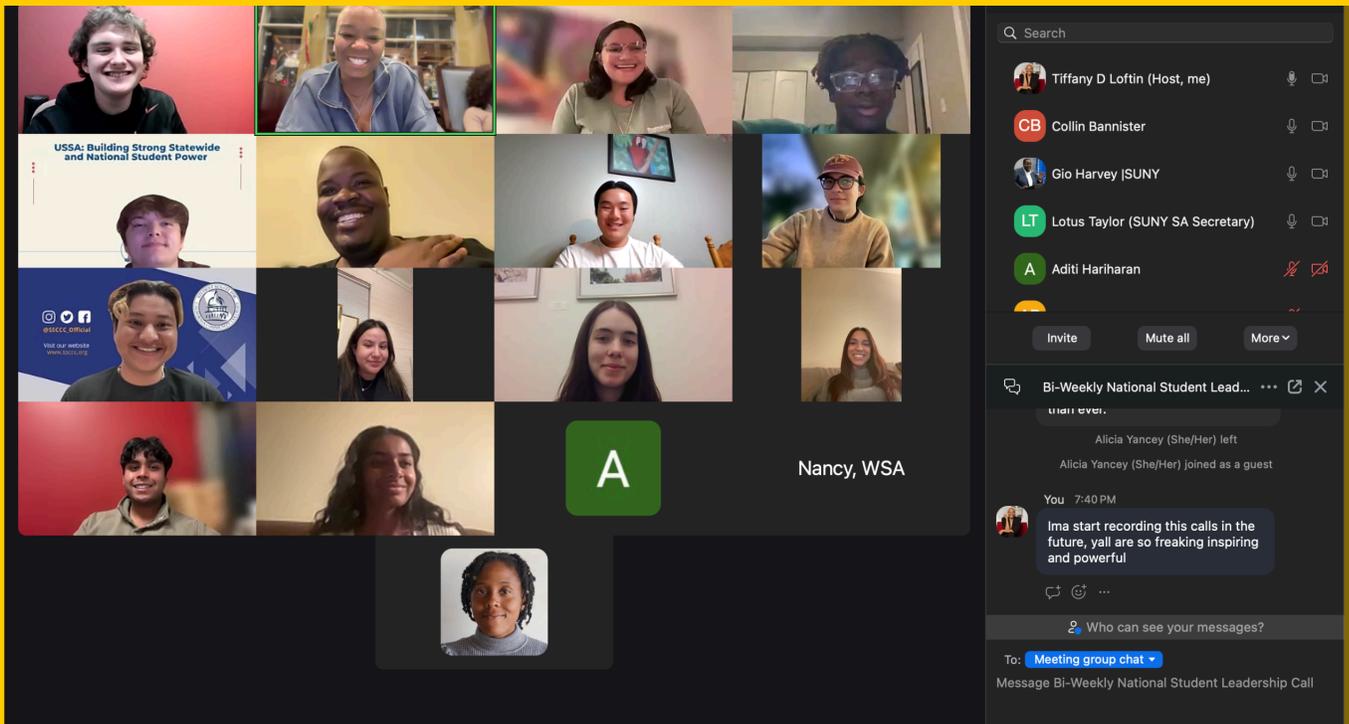
Our fellows have exemplified USSA's mission through their dedication:

- Collin: National and state-wide legislative lobbying experience, including a congressional internship in Washington D.C.
- Milagros: Leadership in Arizona's ASU Student Association, delivering workshops on canvassing, activism, and voter registration and Youth Empowerment Summit.
- Jas: Extensive field experience as a General Election GOTV Site Leader in Pitt County, NC, training over 125 canvassers and leading early voting initiatives across nine (9) institutions of higher education.

Fellows' Reflection:

“Person-to-person engagement has been invaluable. Through direct connections, we've successfully recruited new members and reignited enthusiasm for student-led advocacy.”

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH



State Representation and Resolutions

USSA continues to build a strong foundation of student advocacy across the nation:

- **Active States:** CA, WA, AZ, MI, MA, FL, NY.
- **Resolutions Passed:** Washington (3 resolutions), Arizona, and New York, and Florida.
- **Drafting and Ratifying Resolutions:** California, Florida and Massachusetts.

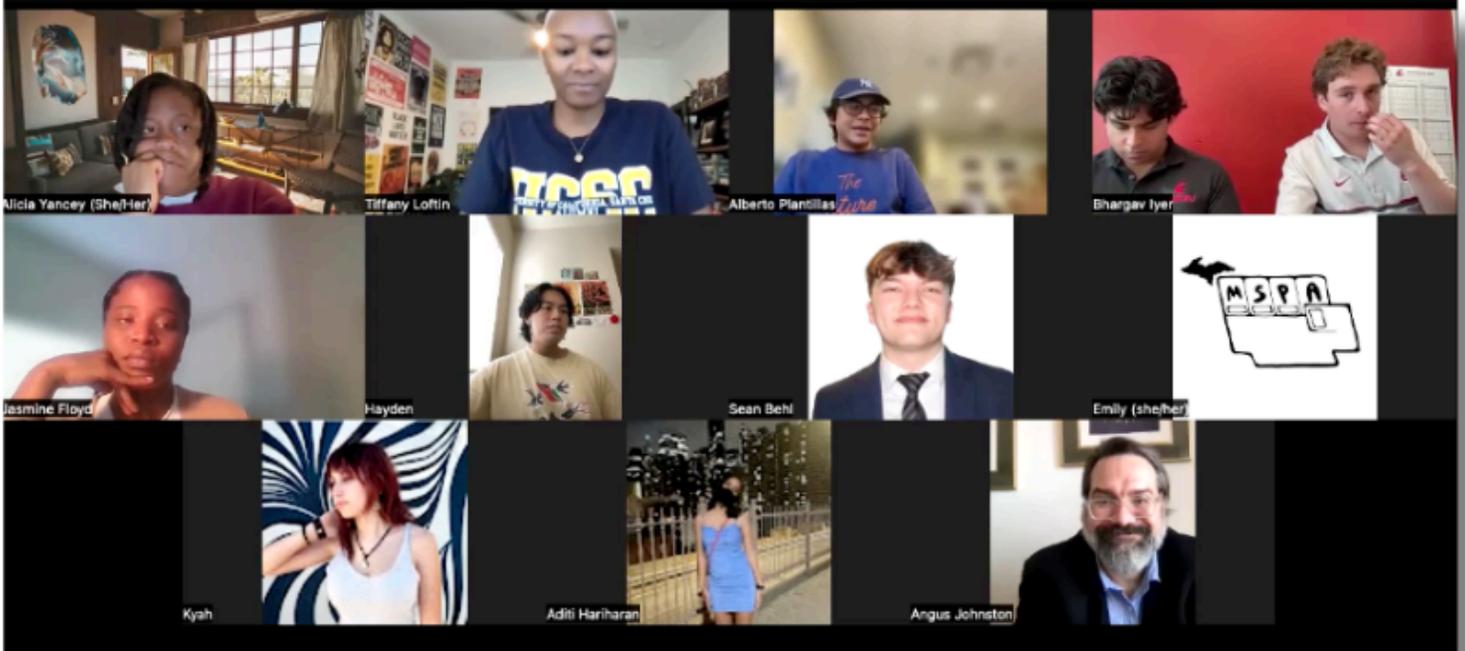
Membership Consideration: North Carolina, Texas, Oregon, Wisconsin, and Ohio.

Global Engagement

USSA participated in a collaborative introductory meeting with the Global Student Forum (GSF), represented by Tiffany, Collin, and Jas. Discussions highlighted intersections between U.S. and global student issues, emphasizing potential for future collaboration. GSF represents over 5,900 local organizations through five regional unions and 190+ national and international organizations.



PROGRAM SUMMARY



This year, USSA hosted several impactful events to engage student leaders and foster learning around key advocacy and policy topics:

- **The Lobbying Lab: Federal Advocacy Edition: Featuring Getachew Kassa.**
- **Higher Education Federal Policy Presentation: Led by Derek Lewis, NAACP.**
- **Student Activism Presentation: In collaboration with the Arizona Student Association, led by Milagros and ASU Student Association.**
- **History of USSA: With Angus Johnson.**
- **USSA Alumni Panel: Featuring Nneka Abukeze, Cesar Aguilar, Victor Sanchez, and Matt Cordero.**

Student Facilitators:

A dedicated team of student leaders: Alex, Alberto, Milagros, Collin, Sean, and Gio, drive engagement and collaboration, ensuring USSA's success. Additionally, advisors have assisted with technical support: TDL, Jas and Alicia.

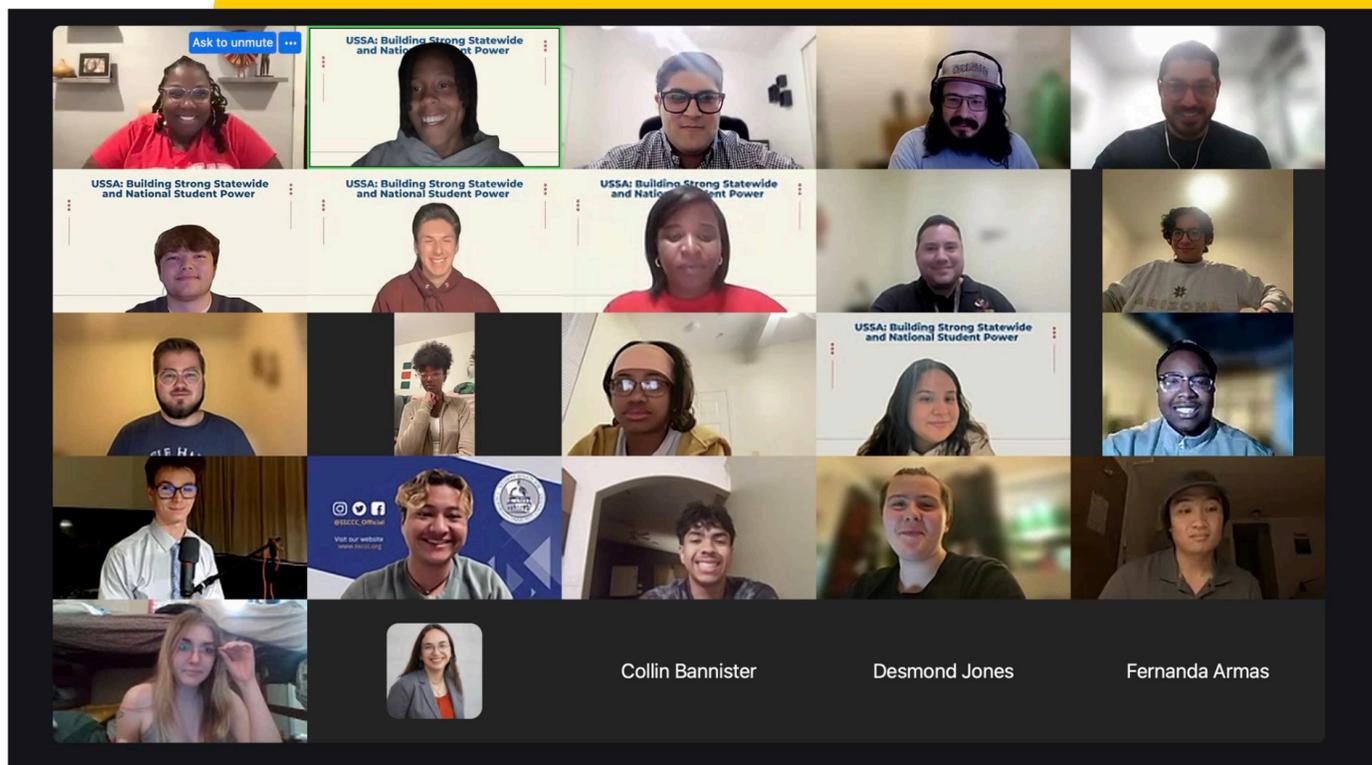
Total # of
participants

221

States
Representation

9

PROGRAM SUMMARY CONTINUED



Alumni Support

A vital piece of the reestablishment of USSA was the outreach led by Advisor and USSA Alumna Tiffany D. Loftin. Through facilitated outreach and meetings, TDL connected with alumni and active student organizers, many of whom now hold influential positions, including:

- Lawmakers (state representatives and U.S. senators)
- Executive directors
- Strategists
- Network of student leaders

Their contributions have been instrumental in supporting the organization's goals.

Legislative Priorities:

Early in the process, the students had to come up with a consensus for priorities issues, to see the connections they had, and the values they shared. two issues rose to the top

1. freedom of speech
2. student debt cancellation

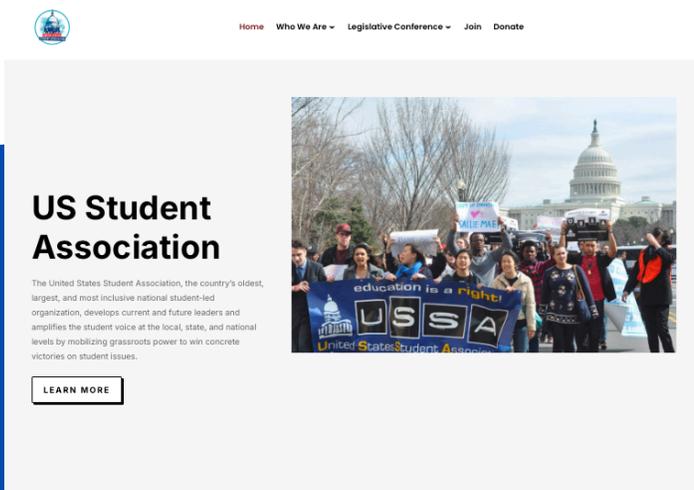
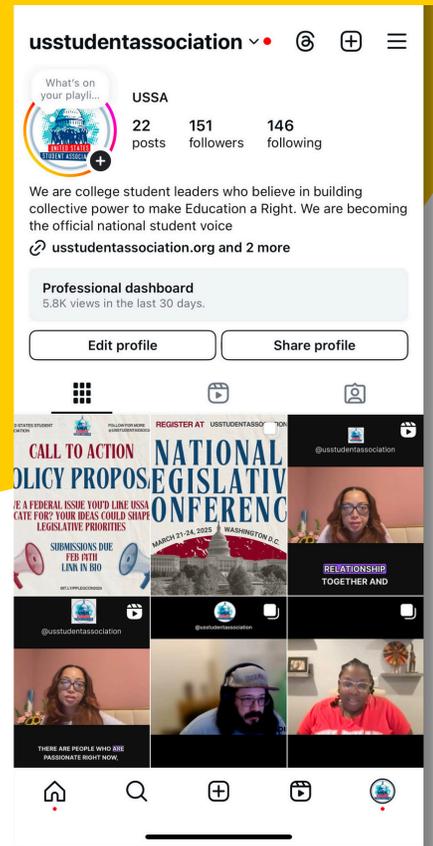
Achievement:

The Washington Student Association played a pivotal role in advancing H.R. 5654, the Stop Campus Hazing Act, aimed at strengthening anti-hazing policies and ensuring safer campus environments nationwide. Stop Campus Hazing Act.

PROGRAM SUMMARY CONTINUED

BI WEEKLY MEETINGS PARTICIPATION

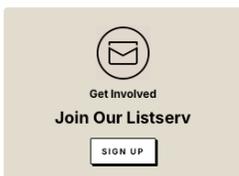
1. January 27, 2025: 30 attendees
2. January 13, 2025: 21 attendees
3. December 30, 2024: 16 attendees
4. December 16, 2024: 23 attendees
5. December 2, 2024: 23 attendees
6. November 18, 2024: 16 attendees
7. November 11, 2024: 37 attendees
8. November 4, 2024: 12 attendees
9. October 21, 2024: 18 attendees
10. October 14, 2024: 12 attendees
11. September 30, 2024: 18 attendees
12. September 20, 2024: 9 attendees
13. September 6, 2024: 8 attendees
14. August 23, 2024: 12 attendees
15. August 9, 2024: 7 attendees
16. July 26, 2024: 6 attendees
17. July 12, 2024: 20 attendees



WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

We launched our new website and instagram page after not being able to gain access to the old accounts.

Our students are running social media and our page is live ready for our 2025 legislative conference and to receive donations.



PUBLISHED ARTICLES

The purpose in the outreach plan was multifaceted, and mainly focused on sharing program updates and milestones with local and national media outlets to raise awareness and build credibility. Leverage platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter to engage the community, showcase participant stories, and amplify program impact. Lastly, connecting with schools, community organizations, and local leaders to recruit participants and foster collaborative support.



The screenshot shows the top portion of a web article. At the top left is the logo for 'The Forge' with the tagline 'Organizing Strategy and Practice'. To the right are buttons for 'DONATE' and 'SIGN UP FOR EMAILS', along with social media icons for search, Twitter, Facebook, and RSS. The article is dated 'December 12, 2024' and has the title 'How We're Rebuilding the Nation's Largest Student Organization' by Sean Behl. Below the title are social sharing icons and a 'Print this article' button. A black and white photograph of three young people is featured on the right. A small caption below the photo reads: 'A young Kwame Ture attempted to influence the organization but was stifled by the CIA. Credit: Leni Sinclair'.

The article "How We're Rebuilding the Nation's Largest Student Organization" by Sean Behl, published on December 12, 2024, discusses the revitalization efforts of a major student organization. Key points include:

- **Strategic Rebuilding:** The organization is implementing a comprehensive plan to rebuild its structure and influence, focusing on grassroots organizing and member engagement.
- **Leadership Development:** Emphasis is placed on cultivating new leaders from diverse backgrounds to ensure inclusive representation and effective advocacy.
- **Campaign Focus:** The group is aligning its efforts with current social justice movements, addressing issues pertinent to the student body and broader community.
- **Resource Allocation:** Efforts are underway to secure funding and resources that support sustainable growth and the organization's mission-driven activities.
- **Community Partnerships:** Building alliances with local and national organizations is a priority to amplify impact and foster collaborative initiatives.

These strategies aim to rejuvenate the organization's presence and effectiveness in advocating for student interests nationwide.

Behl, Sean. "How We're Rebuilding the Nation's Largest Student Organization." Forge Organizing, December 12, 2024.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

The article "Building Real Student Power" by Tiffany Dena Loftin, published in Hammer & Hope (Fall 2024), emphasizes the importance of establishing enduring campus infrastructures to support student activism. Key points include:

- **Historical Significance of Student Movements:** Students have historically been at the forefront of progressive politics in the U.S., advocating for issues such as voting rights, gender justice, and fair wages.
- **Need for Sustainable Organizing Structures:** The article argues that spontaneous protests are insufficient; instead, there is a need for resilient, autonomous organizing infrastructures that persist year after year to build durable youth power at local, state, and national levels.
- **Challenges from Conservative Actions:** Conservative efforts have targeted student organizing by policing speech and dismantling student control over campus budgets, thereby weakening student governments and disempowering activists.
- **Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic:** The pandemic disrupted in-person mentorship and leadership transitions, creating gaps in institutional knowledge and hindering the development of new student organizers.
- **Call to Action for Progressive Investment:** The article calls for the left to invest in building a new national student organization that upholds progressive values and protects freedom of speech, countering the well-funded conservative campus infrastructures.

These points highlight the necessity for long-term support systems to empower student activists and sustain progressive movements.

Reference: Loftin, Tiffany Dena. "Building Real Student Power." Hammer & Hope, Fall 2024.

HAMMER&HOPE

NO. 5
FALL 2024

BUILDING REAL STUDENT POWER

Young people have long been the
vanguard of progressive politics.
They need campus infrastructure to
help them organize for the long haul.



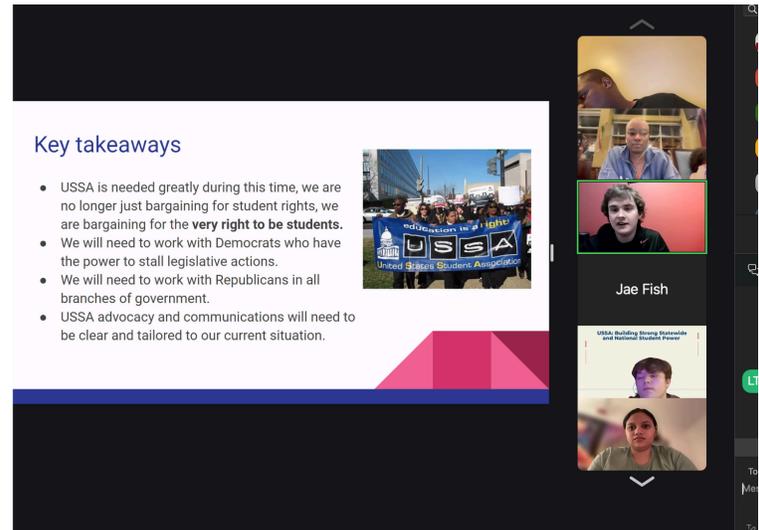
TIFFANY DENA LOFTIN



CHALLENGES

Building anything this big, this fast is challenging, here are some of the lessons we learned from this year

- Student leaders will come if other students leaders invite them
- The covid pandemic left a gap of information and training that requires deep time and resources to close
- Rules have changed and are constantly becoming barriers to student agency
- USSA alumni have not been coordinated and have aged out of similar experiences with students
- The information and RESOURCES from the previous USSA are lost
- SSA's have had to close their doors and we need a new model for a national power building organization



The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. The main content is a slide titled "Key takeaways" with a bulleted list of points. To the right of the text is a small image of a group of people holding a banner that says "Education is a Right" and "United States Student Association". Below the slide is a video grid with several participants. One participant is labeled "Jae Fish". The slide content is as follows:

Key takeaways

- USSA is needed greatly during this time, we are no longer just bargaining for student rights, we are bargaining for the **very right to be students**.
- We will need to work with Democrats who have the power to stall legislative actions.
- We will need to work with Republicans in all branches of government.
- USSA advocacy and communications will need to be clear and tailored to our current situation.

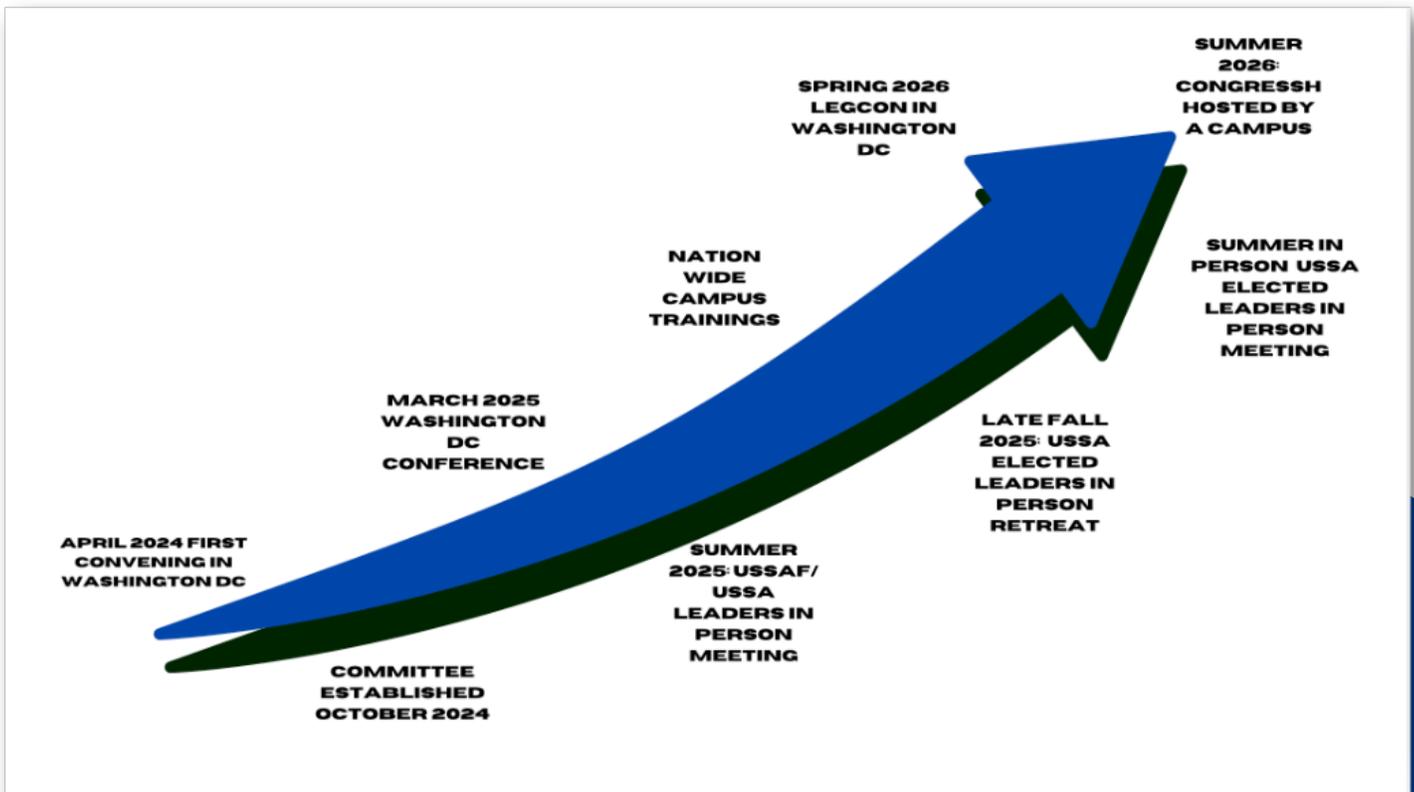
OPPORTUNITIES

- Student leaders exists and are waiting and ready to be pulled together.
- Alumni have really great careers in labor, philanthropy, civil rights, education, and government
- We have seed money to get started
- The students have been able to build relationships even though they have never met each other in person
- Three state wide student associations have passed resolutions and are teaching others how to do the same
- We are gathering in Washington DC in March 2025
- The foundation board has added 4 new members with a 2 year commitment

WHAT IS NEXT?

We want to build to scale, we want to build power with college student leaders across the country. This means focusing on healthy relationships and culture for an organization that does real advocacy, and harm reduction on the federal level.

This model won't look like the old USSA, that will be decided by current future students of USSA. We do want to build large representation to hold the legitimacy of a national student run student lead organization. We want to build a strong network of student leaders that supports each other and moves Congress, the White House and the Department of Education to make education a right!



SPECIAL THANKS

ALICIA YANCEY
ANGUS JOHNSTON
ASTRA TAYLOR
CESAR AGUILAR
DEBT COLLECTIVE
GETACHEW KASSA

JESSICA PIERCE
KYLE NITSCHKE
MATT CORDEIRO
NNEKA AKUBEZE
SALIH MUHAMMAD
VICTOR SANCHEZ

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 22-24 2025

A NATIONAL CONVENING FOR
COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO
FIGHT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

WORKSHOPS/ TRAININGS
LOBBY VISITS
LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS
PARTY

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