

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

For more information contact Betty VanDeventer at betty.vandeventer@nebraska.gov or 402.471.4537

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TWO NEBRASKA STUDENTS NAMED 2011 U. S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

Two Nebraska students have been named 2011 United States Presidential Scholars.

The students are:

- Emily Chen of Brownell-Talbot School in Omaha
- Eric Mattson of Lincoln East High School in Lincoln

The Nebraska students were among 141 students selected nationally for demonstrating leadership, scholarship and their contributions to school and community as well as for outstanding accomplishments in the arts, sciences, humanities and other fields of interest.

The Presidential Scholars award is considered one of the nation's highest honors for high school seniors.

Nebraska Education Commissioner Roger Breed said the two students represent excellence in education. "We celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of these young Nebraska scholars," he said.

The 2011 Presidential Scholars were selected from about 3,000 candidates from across the nation identified for the academic component of the program based on exceptional scores on the College Board SAT or the ACT assessment. The National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts nominated about 60 students who had completed the *youngARTS* program and met the Presidential Scholars requirements. A review committee evaluates student candidates on their academic achievement, personal characteristics, leadership and service activities as well as the quality and content of their essay.

This year marks the 47th year for the U. S. Presidential Scholars Program that has recognized more than 5,000 students over the years. Scholars selected to represent their state have been invited to Washington, D.C., in June.