

# SIX NEBRASKA STUDENTS NAMED SEMIFINALISTS FOR 2012 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Six students from Lincoln and Omaha area high schools have been named semifinalists in the 2012 U. S. Presidential Scholars program.

The students are:

- Noemi Berkowitz, Lincoln Southwest High School
- Jackson Fisher, Lincoln East High School
- Jackson Gzehoviak, Millard North High School
- Michael Liou, Lincoln East High School
- Monica Lu, Lincoln East High School
- Lilly Phillips, Westside High School

The Nebraska students are among about 550 national semifinalists. High school seniors are chosen for their accomplishments in many areas — academic and artistic success, leadership and involvement in school and community. Each year up to 141 students are chosen from the outstanding seniors nationwide to become Presidential Scholars, one of the nation’s highest honors for high school seniors.

“These outstanding Nebraska high school seniors are among the state’s most talented young people and are on a path filled with endless opportunities. I am confident each senior will make all of Nebraska proud of their continued achievements as they move to college and to the careers of their choice. The goal of Nebraska educators is to help all students build an educational foundation that will offer them many opportunities. On behalf of all Nebraska educators, I applaud these seniors for their hard work and commitment to academic success,” Nebraska Education Commissioner Roger Breed said.

The 2012 U. S. Presidential Scholars were selected from nearly 3.2 million high school seniors nationwide. About 3,300 of those seniors were identified as candidates for the program. The 550 semifinalists were chosen from that pool of high school seniors. The finalists will consist of up to 121 academic scholars and as many as 20 arts scholars. They will be recognized in Washington, D.C., in June, during National Recognition Weekend.

The U. S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964 to recognize the nation’s most distinguished graduating high school seniors. In 1979, the program was expanded to recognize seniors who demonstrate exceptional scholarship and talent in the visual, creative and performing arts.