



NEWS RELEASE

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SIX NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS NAMED 2015 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS SEMIFINALISTS

Six Nebraska high school seniors have been named 2015 U. S. Presidential Scholars semifinalists.

The students are:

- Caravaggio Caniglia, Brownell-Talbot School in Omaha
- Alisha Dalal of Elkhorn South High School in Omaha
- Makayla Haussler of Lincoln Southwest High School in Lincoln
- Brittany Margritz of Skutt Catholic High School in Omaha
- Ryder Mays of Hastings Senior High School in Hastings
- Yuzhao Shen of Lincoln Southeast High School in Lincoln

The Nebraska high school seniors are among 565 semifinalists selected nationally. 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 U.S. Presidential Scholars, one of the nation’s highest honors for high school seniors.

Nebraska Education Commissioner Matt Blomstedt congratulated the students for being among the nation’s most talented and academically successful high school seniors. “Your hard work and commitment to your education has set you on a path filled with endless opportunities,” Blomstedt said. “I am certain your families and teachers are proud of your accomplishments. Nebraska educators work hard to help each student every day build the educational foundation that will set them on a course of continued success as they move from high school to college and the careers of their choice.”

The 2015 U. S. Presidential Scholars were selected from nearly 3.3 million high school seniors nationwide. More than 4,300 of those seniors were identified as candidates for the program, and 565 semifinalists were selected from across the country. These semifinalists form the pool from which up to 141 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be chosen. The U.S. Presidential Scholars will be recognized for their accomplishments in Washington, D.C., in June.

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. For more information about the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, visit <http://www.ed.gov/psp> .