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Idaho's Presidential Scholar candidates announced

(BOISE) – More than 50 Idaho high school seniors from throughout Idaho are in the running as candidates for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, according to the national committee that organizes the program on behalf of the White House.

“Idaho can be proud that so many bright, accomplished young men and women made the cut to qualify for this elite scholarship program,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra said. “It represents hard work, commitment and excellence from our schools and teachers as well as our students.”

Candidates are selected for earning top scores on the SAT and ACT exams and also are evaluated for leadership and involvement in their schools and communities. All have been notified by email and will have until Feb. 26 to submit full applications for the prestigious honor.

Semifinalists will be announced April 17, and two top students – one male and one female – from each state will ultimately be selected on May 7. The Presidential Scholars will travel to Washington, D.C., June 23-25, where they will meet the president and have an opportunity to interact with distinguished scholars from around the country during three days of ceremonies, activities and forums. More information about the program and its history can be found at: <http://www.ed.gov/psp>. Idaho students selected as candidates for this year's honor are:

Peyton E. Badger, Meridian - Mountain View High School

Puja Batchu, Boise - Centennial High School

Sarrah Belhadj, Eagle - Centennial High School

Megan Boyce, Kimberly - Kimberly High School

Anthony C. Brar, Boise - Boise High School

Keenan G. Bryan, Idaho Falls - Idaho Falls High School

Brendan M. Bundy, Kuna - Meridian High School

Hyrum D. Cannon, Ammon - Hillcrest High School

Abigail S. Chen, Boise - Boise High School

John J. Chen, Boise - Centennial High School

Karson M. Chrispens, Hayden - Coeur D'Alene Charter Academy

Megan E. Clements, Rigby - Rigby High School

Scott D. Dayton, Boise - Boise High School

Luke B. Dean, Hailey - Wood River High School

Andrew Every, Boise - Boise High School
Crista M. Falk, Coeur D Alene - Lake City High School
Barrett Fuller, Meridian - Meridian High School
Ian Hadrick, Boise - Timberline High School
Joseph B. Hall, Ketchum - Community School
Kayson T. Hansen, Twin Falls - Twin Falls High School
Rachel C. Harris, Idaho Falls - Idaho Falls High School
Sabrina R. Hatt, Rexburg – Home school
Katelyn A. Hettinga, Kuna - Kuna High School
Kara M. Hunter, Boise - Centennial High School
Catherine R. Ji, Meridian - Capital High School
Theodore A. Knoll, Boise - Timberline High School
Catherine S. Knothe, Boise - Boise High School
Andrah Lake, Emmett - Emmett High School
Benjamin A. Lambert, Hayden - Coeur D'Alene Charter Academy
Dahsong Lee, Boise - Boise High School
Rachel Y. Liu, Eagle - Eagle High School
Anthony Luo, Boise - Boise High School
D - Blake W. Magnuson, Eagle - Renaissance High School
Adele Marchiando, Sandpoint - Sandpoint High School
Aidan M. Mcintyre, Boise - Capital High School
Lydia Mcroberts, Lewiston - Lewiston High School
Catherine K. Merrill, Boise - Borah High School
Madeline Metcalf, Lewiston - Lewiston High School
Michael W. Min, Boise - Centennial High School
Khoi A. Nguyen, Boise - Timberline High School
Ashton M. O'Connor, Boise - Centennial High School
Christopher Patrick, Boise - Boise High School
Paige Rasmussen, Pocatello - Highland High School
Maya S. Redden, Idaho Falls - Compass Academy
Thomas E. Ricks, Boise - Timberline High School
John C. Shieh, Boise - Centennial High School
Leah E. Smith, Nampa - Skyview High School
Abraham K. Stucki, Nampa - Skyview High School
Hailun Wang, Boise - Timberline High School
Jonathan W. Webb, Coeur D Alene - Science Academy of South Texas
Alec R. Weber, Meridian - Capital High School
Catherine Wells, Meridian - Kolbe Academy
Quinn A. White, Boise - Boise High School
Toriana J. Wilson, Coeur D'Alene - Lake City High School
Sabrina Zerrade, Boise - Timberline High School
Grace Zhu, Boise - Boise High School

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