**CTE U.S. Presidential Scholars Program**

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964, and, since that time, the program has honored more than over 7,000 outstanding high school seniors.  The mission of the program is to recognize and honor outstanding high school seniors, and thereby encourage high attainment among all students.

Per the original Executive Order establishing the program, students are selected on the basis of outstanding scholarship.  For most of the program’s existence, nominees have been invited to apply for recognition based upon SAT or ACT scores.  As the program has grown, candidates have been invited to apply in other ways as well.  Last year, the first group of outstanding students who demonstrate excellence in CTE were included for recognition.

Since 2013, Chief State School Officers have been invited to nominate candidates from their states for the General component of the program.  The Director of the Iowa Department of Education is asking for our help in nominating up to five candidates for the U.S. Presidential Scholars in CTE.

All high school seniors participating in CTE and graduating between January and June of 2018, who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents and who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible.  The candidates will go through the application process, and as in the past, the 2018 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion at a ceremony in their honor in Washington, DC.

Consider the following questions as you contemplate the selection of your nominees:

1. What about the student makes him or her stand out as having outstanding scholarship?
2. What about the student shows strong ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields?
3. Were there special challenges or hurdles this student has overcome while still achieving high academic success?

In addition, it may be useful for you to know that the reviewers will be considering the following categories when evaluating the nominees at the semifinalist and Scholar evaluation levels:

·         Involvement and Service (in school and community)

·         Leadership and Character

·        Writing samples

·         Academic achievements

·         Discretionary points for extraordinary achievement, heavy workload, family

 responsibilities, or obstacles overcome.

Iowa ACTE submit the names of the top five CTE students they feel are the top candidates from Iowa CTE programs to receive this recognition to the Iowa CTE Bureau. **The deadline for submission is ~~September 27, 2017~~. EXTENDED to October 13, 2017**

**Process:**

Iowa ACTE will contact their divisions as well as the CTSOs and ask for a maximum of 5 nominees from each division that represent their top candidates for the award. The DE Consultants will also send out information to the field on the process. The nominations from the field will go to the Iowa ACTE division representative. The division representative is responsible for determining, with their affiliate groups (teacher education group, applicable CTSOs, etc.) the process for which the top five candidates will be determined from their service area.

***The attached nominations forms that include the above criteria are to be sent to:***

**Agriculture** – Courtney May - courtney.may@mtayrschools.org

**Business** – Kyle Kuhlers - k\_kuhlers@union.k12.ia.us

**Family & Consumer Sciences** – Courtney Teghtmeyer or Laura VanWaardhuizen cteghtmeyer@clarke.k12.ia.us or lvanwaardhuizen@waukeeschools.org

**Health Science** – Teri Peterson or Kelli Flack teri.peterson@witcc.edu or kelli.flack@witcc.edu

**Industrial Technology** – Greg Kepner or Dan Kiley greg.kepner@indianhills.edu or dkiley@anamosa.k12.ia.us

**Information Systems** -- Kyle Kuhlers - k\_kuhlers@union.k12.ia.us

The Iowa ACTE division representative will submit the maximum of 5 nominees from their division by 10/13 at midnight (to a google folder).

Iowa ACTE’s award committee will then review and score the candidates from 10/13 – 10/15 at midnight.

On 10/16, the Iowa ACTE DE Liaison will add the scores and the top 5 will be moved on as nominees to the Director. In the event of any ties, the CTE Bureau will make the determination based on the information presented in the nominations.

Questions on the process should be directed to:

Lisa Stange, CTE Consultant and Iowa ACTE Liaison lisa.stange@iowa.gov 515-242-5032