**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 2019, 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 2019 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.

All nominees will be announced and invited to apply in mid-January 2019 by the U.S. Presidential Scholars program office; therefore, you do not need to contact the candidate.  Completed applications will be due in February 2019, and Scholars will be announced at the beginning of May 2019.

Nationally, candidates who are nominated and choose to apply, and whose applications are complete, will be reviewed by a committee of qualified individuals experienced in career and technical education at the national level.  The committee will choose 60 applicants to be named as semifinalists.  The 60 CTE semifinalist applications will then be reviewed by the Commission on Presidential Scholars.  All 2019 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and will 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.

Last year, Iowa ACTE helped nominate and review CTE students for the Director to put forward as nominees from Iowa. This process resulted in several of our Iowa nominees to be selected as finalists and one received national recognition as a National CTE Presidential Scholar!

This process worked well, and we will be following the same process this year. Iowa ACTE will again nominate, review, and submit the names of the top five CTE students they feel are the top candidates from Iowa CTE programs to receive this recognition. The deadline for submission is September 30, 2018.

**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 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.

Nominations include a summary of the reasons for the nomination, and will include the above criteria to:

Agriculture – Karen Van De Walle

Business – Susan Seuferer

Family & Consumer Sciences – Kelsie Engleken

Health Sciences – Maureen Weaver

Industrial Technology – Dan Kiley

Information Systems --

The Iowa ACTE division representative will submit the maximum of 5 nominees from their division by 9/30 at midnight (to a google folder).

Iowa ACTE’s award committee will then review and score the candidates from 10/01 – 10/14 at midnight.

On 10/15, Lisa will add the scores and the top 5 will be moved on as nominees by the Director. In the event of any ties, the CTE Bureau will make the determination based on the information presented in the nominations.