**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.  In the last few years, the first group of outstanding students who demonstrated 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 the current school year, 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 yearly U.S. Presidential Scholars are selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion at a ceremony in their honor in Washington, DC.

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

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. 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.

Iowa ACTE has been helping nominate and review CTE students for the Director to put forward as nominees from Iowa. This process has resulted in several of our Iowa nominees to be selected as finalists. In 2018 and 2019 one and two received national recognition (respectively) as a National CTE Presidential Scholar!

This process has worked well, and we continue to follow the same process yearly. Iowa ACTE will 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 nomination submissions by each division is September 30 of the current school year. All nominations will be posted through the Iowa Department of Education website. Please note: If a division has more than 5 nominations, the division will have 15 days to determine their top five candidates to move on to Iowa ACTE for vetting among all candidates.

**Process:**

Iowa ACTE division representatives will contact their divisions as well as the CTSOs and ask for a maximum of 5 nominees from their 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 the division representative that is on the Iowa ACTE board of directors. The divisions are as follows:

Agriculture

Business

Family & Consumer Sciences

Health Sciences

Industrial Technology

Information Systems