

## CTE U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

The Iowa Department of Education is seeking nominations for outstanding high school seniors for the 2020-21 U.S. Presidential Scholars selection cycle.

Nominate an outstanding CTE student: [CTE Component Presidential Scholar Nomination Form](#)

Go to the above link and then start the nomination on the second page of the link. (The link on the first page goes to the General Component category nomination form.)

**Nominations must be submitted no later than October 30.**

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 based on 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.

Traditionally, all nominees are 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. However, you may want to so that if an invitation letter is received, students will know that it is a legitimate invitation.

Completed applications will be due in February, and Scholars will be announced at the beginning of May. (Exact timelines vary from year to year.)

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, 2019 and 2020 one, two and one 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 **October 30** of the current school year. All nominations will be submitted on the Iowa Department of Education website on a Google Form.

For more information go to this [Iowa Department of Education webpage](#).

### **Presidential Scholarship Process for 2020:**

Early in October Iowa ACTE and the DE will contact their divisions as well as the CTSO Executive Directors and ask for a minimum of 5 nominees from each division that represent their top candidates for the award. Nominators enter all nomination information into the Google Form on the Department of Education website [CTE Component Presidential Scholar Nomination form](#).

Go to the above link and then start the nomination on the second page of the link. (Note: The link on the first page goes to the General Component category nomination form.)

**Nominations must be submitted no later than October 30.**

Soon after nominations cease, if a division has more than 5 nominations, the division representative will be given a copy of those nominations and 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. This step will be completed in approximately a week.

The divisions are as follows:

- Agriculture
- Business
- Family & Consumer Sciences
- Health Sciences
- Industrial Technology

## Information Systems

Iowa ACTE's award committee will then review and score the candidates. The committee consists of the division representatives above and the Ex. Director Sandy Miller, Iowa ACTE President, Susan Seuferer, Region III Representative Greg Kepner, and Awards Chair Dana Lampe. They will put their completed rubrics in their service area folder (or the folder for each of the additional committee members).

The scores will be added and the top 5 will be moved on as nominees by the Director by 11/20. In the event of any ties, the CTE Bureau will make the determination based on the information presented in the nominations.