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**IDAHO'S U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM
SEMI-FINALISTS ANNOUNCED**

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(BOISE) – The national U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, which annually selects the best and brightest graduating high school seniors from each state in the union, has narrowed its search to six semi-finalists for the state of Idaho, all selected for their “outstanding achievements.”

The semi-finalists in Idaho are:

- Phillip H. Cathers from Borah High School in Boise.
- Aurora G. Cossairt of Centennial High School in Boise.
- Dina F. Lu from Boise High School in Boise.
- Elisa S. Danthinne of Bishop Kelly High School in Boise.
- Nathan Jiang of Eagle High School in Eagle.
- Jenna R. Novy of Century High School in Pocatello.

The program was established in 1964 by executive order of President Lyndon Johnson to recognize and honor some of the nation’s most distinguished graduating students. It has since been expanded to include students who demonstrate exceptional scholarship and talent in the visual, creative and performing arts, or who have shown outstanding ability and accomplishment in career and technical fields. Besides their scholastic and artistic achievements, the scholars also are evaluated for leadership and involvement in their school and community.

For the 2016 winners this year, out of 3.3 million graduating high school seniors over 4,700 were identified as initial candidates for the honor and 689 semifinalists from across the country have been selected. Those semifinalists will form the pool from which the 2016 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be chosen and announced later this year.

More information about the program and its history can be found at: <http://www.ed.gov/psp>.

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