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## **Six Idaho students named Presidential Scholar semifinalists**

(BOISE) – Six high-achieving Idaho high school seniors have been selected as semifinalists for the U.S. Presidential Scholars program.

“Congratulations to these remarkable students, their families and their schools on being chosen for this prestigious national program,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra said. “The national Presidential Scholars program honors distinguished graduating seniors who have ‘demonstrated scholarship, leadership, artistic excellence and selfless service to others.’ Involvement in their schools and communities is an important part of their qualifications.”

Idaho’s semifinalists are:

- Blaine Dillingham, Boise - Timberline High School
- Jayanth Mouli - Boise High School
- Siddharth Raghav Naidu - Boise High School
- Matteya Ann Proctor - Deary High School
- Zoe Simon, Hailey - Wood River High School
- Jieyan Wang - Moscow High School. Wang also is a semifinalist for the U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, selected by the YoungArts™ program.

While most academic national Presidential Scholars semifinalists are initially selected for consideration based on their SAT or ACT scores, each state chief school officer can nominate individuals for the honor. This year’s Idaho semifinalists include Superintendent Ybarra’s nominee Matteya Proctor.

The semifinalists announced this week come from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and U.S. territories and possessions. They were selected from more than 5,200 nominees from the approximately 3.6 million eligible graduating seniors this year.

Each state normally has two academic finalists named from the list of semifinalists, a boy and a girl, both of whom must be U.S. citizens. In addition, the Commission on Presidential Scholars may select

finalists in the arts and career-technical education. A total of up to 161 students may receive the Presidential Scholars honor, a recognition program established in 1964. It is not a scholarship program.

Finalists will be selected in May. Finalists generally receive an all-expenses-paid trip in June to the National Recognition Program in Washington, D.C., and receive their Presidential Scholars Medallions during a ceremony at the White House. However, those plans may be altered this year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

For more information about the Presidential Scholars program, go to the [Department of Education presidential scholars page](#).

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