Eight Idaho semi-finalists chosen in Presidential Scholars Program

(BOISE) – The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, which annually selects top graduating high school seniors from each state, has selected eight semi-finalists for the state of Idaho, all selected for their outstanding achievements. The 2018 semi-finalists, selected in three categories, are:

**Academics**
- Rachel A. Forest -- Century High School, Pocatello
- Jack A. Lauer -- Boise High School
- Alyssa Y. Lu -- Boise High School
- Araoluwa P. Omotowa -- Hillcrest High School, Idaho Falls
- Garrett L. Thompson -- Potlatch Junior-Senior High School, Viola
- Tia T. Vierling -- Moscow High School

**Arts**
- Claire Manning -- Boise High School

**Career and Technical Education**
- Emma K. Winkle -- Middleton High School.

Presidential scholars from each state are expected to be announced May 8. The program was established in 1964 by President Lyndon Johnson to honor distinguished graduating seniors and was later 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.

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