



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

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Idaho's 2019 Presidential Scholars announced

(BOISE) – A high school senior from Boise and one from Rigby have been named as Idaho's two Presidential Scholars for the class of 2019, Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra said Tuesday.

“John Chen and Megan Elizabeth Clements earned this national honor through their academic achievements and community involvement,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “I’m proud to have these outstanding young Idahoans represent our state on the national stage.”

Chen attends Centennial High School in the West Ada School District, and Clements attends Rigby High School in the Jefferson County School District. They are Idaho's representatives in the 55th class of U.S. Presidential Scholars, announced by U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos.

“Their hard work and commitment to excellence, no matter what challenge they are tackling, will serve them well throughout their lifelong learning journeys,” Secretary DeVos said. “I have no doubt that many of tomorrow's leaders are among this year's class of scholars.”

Chen, Clements and their counterparts from across the nation will be honored June 23 in Washington, D.C., when each honoree will receive a Presidential Scholar Medallion. Each state typically has one male and one female selected as its annual Presidential Scholar representatives.

The [White House Commission on Presidential Scholars](#) selects scholars each year based on academic success, artistic and technical excellence, essays, school evaluations and transcripts, as well as community service, leadership and demonstrated commitment to high ideals.

Of the 3.6 million students expected to graduate from high school this year, more than 5,200 candidates qualified for the 2019 awards determined by outstanding performance on the College

Board SAT and ACT exams or through nominations made by [Chief State School Officers](#) such as Superintendent Ybarra, as well as other partner recognition organizations and the National YoungArts Foundation's nationwide [YoungArts™ competition](#).

Created in 1964, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program has honored over 7,500 of the nation's top-performing students with an annual ceremony in Washington, D.C. The program was expanded in 1979 to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, literary and performing arts. In 2015, the program was again extended to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields.

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