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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Pam Stewart

DATE: September 27, 2013

SUBJECT: U.S. Presidential Scholars Student Nominations

Contact Information:

Ann Whitney
850-245-9965
Ann.Whitney@fldoe.org
DPS: 2013-141

The Commission on Presidential Scholars is requesting nominations for the 2013-14 cycle of their Presidential Scholars Program. The mission of this program, established in 1964, is to recognize and honor superior high school seniors. Students are selected on the basis of outstanding scholarship. Each state may nominate up to six students, three male and three female. Students are nominated for this recognition based on SAT/ACT scores for the academic component of the program, or those who have demonstrated ability and accomplishment in the visual and performing arts or creative writing for the arts component of the program.

We encourage you to nominate one student from your district who, while demonstrating outstanding scholarship, might not otherwise be nominated through the current SAT/ACT or arts recognition processes. All high school seniors graduating between January and June of 2014 who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible.

As in the past, the 2014 U.S. Presidential scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and will receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion and an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. in June 2014.

It may be helpful to consider the following questions as you contemplate the selection of your nominee:

1. What about the student makes him or her stand out as having outstanding scholarship?
2. What special challenges or hurdles has this student overcome while still achieving high academic success?

In addition, it may be useful for you to know that the commission will be considering the following categories when evaluating the state's nominees:

- Involvement and service to school and community
- Leadership and character
- Writing samples
- Academic achievements
- Extraordinary achievement, heavy work load, family responsibilities or obstacles overcome

District nominations will be evaluated at the state level. Up to six district nominees, three male and three female, will be chosen to be Florida's nominees. State nominees will be invited to apply in mid-January 2014 for the national program. Completed applications will be due in February, and scholars will be announced at the beginning of May.

I encourage you to nominate one student from your district who is deserving of this honor. Please state whether the student is nominated for the academic or arts component and provide a brief description of why the student is deserving of the award. Please also send the following information for the student nominated from your district:

- Name
- Home mailing address
- High school name and mailing address
- High school College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) code

Nominations may be submitted via email to Ann Whitney, director of humanities, at Ann.Whitney@fldoe.org. The due date for nominations is **Friday, November 1, 2013**. More information about the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program and the Commission on Presidential Scholars is available at www.ed.gov/psp.

PS/aw