



JANET BARRESI
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Janet Barresi *JCB*
DATE: July 24, 2014
SUBJECT: Recognition of 2014 U.S. Presidential Scholars and Semifinalists

State Superintendent Janet Barresi and the State Board of Education recognize and commend Cody Crow of Comanche High School and Shelby Wilkinson of Crossings Christian School as the 2014 U.S. Presidential Scholars.

Michelle Han of Cascia Hall Preparatory School, Peyton Lepp of Broken Arrow High School, William Long of Norman High School North and Reed Shafer Ray of Norman High School were selected as semifinalists in the 2013 Presidential Scholars Program.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964 by Executive Order of the President to recognize and honor some of our Nation's most distinguished graduating seniors. In 1979, the program was expanded to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional scholarship and talent in the visual, creative, and performing arts. Annually, up to 141 students are chosen from among outstanding seniors to become U.S. Presidential Scholars, one of the Nation's highest honors for high school students.

The Scholars are chosen on the basis of their accomplishments in many areas – academic and artistic success, leadership, and involvement in school and the community. The Scholars represent excellence in education and the promise of greatness in America's young people.

From nearly 3.2 million graduating high school seniors, approximately 3,900 students were identified as candidates in this program, and approximately 550 semifinalists have been selected from across the country. These semifinalists form the pool from which the 2013 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be chosen.

JCB/ey