



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

THE COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

Dear Student:

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you that, on the basis of your outstanding performance on the ACT Assessment or on the College Board SAT, you have been selected as a candidate in the 2002 Presidential Scholars Program. Of the more than 2.7 million graduating high school seniors, you are one of approximately 2,600 students to receive this invitation, something of which you should be very proud. Each spring, the Commission on Presidential Scholars names up to 141 distinguished graduating high school seniors as Presidential Scholars. Being chosen a Presidential Scholar is one of the highest honors bestowed upon our nation's high school students. The program is described in greater detail on the enclosed fact sheet.

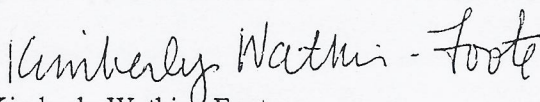
If you are a U.S. citizen and will graduate between January and August of 2002, and would like to participate in the 2002 program, please take the time to complete the enclosed application materials. **If your state of legal residence and mailing address differ, if you attend school outside of your state of legal residence, or if you live outside of the US and its associated territories, please email Presidential.Scholars@ed.gov or call 202-401-0961 before continuing.** These issues may affect your status as a candidate for the program. Carefully follow all directions for completing and returning the materials. **If you fail to complete any part of the application exactly as directed (i.e., the font or "no attachment" requirements), you will be disqualified.** So that you can make a thoughtful response by the deadline, do not put off completing the materials. You should retain a photocopy of your packet for your records. In light of recent difficulties with the postal service, **you are strongly encouraged to use a courier mail service (such as FedEx or UPS) with a guaranteed delivery date when mailing your application. The receipt deadline will be strictly enforced, and we recommend that you use one of these services.**

Candidacy materials are also available online as PDF documents. These may be downloaded and printed in case of the loss of any part of the application. Should you choose to use these documents, please note that all of the requirements, including the receipt deadline, still apply. To access the PDF files, go to www.ed.gov/offices/OIIA/Recognition/PSP (case sensitive) and follow the link for the 2002 Application Materials. The user ID and password are both PSPApplicant (case sensitive).

All candidates who affirm their candidacy by the February 28, 2002 receipt deadline and meet the submittal requirements will be eligible for consideration as semifinalists. A postcard will be sent to candidates confirming receipt of their application materials. All applicants will be notified of their status: Semifinalists will be named in mid-April and Scholars will be named in May. The students selected as 2002 Presidential Scholars will receive the Presidential Scholars medallion presented at a ceremony sponsored by the White House during National Recognition Week in Washington, DC. As guests of the Commission, students will receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, DC and will attend a week-long series of events held in their honor. National Recognition Week has been tentatively scheduled for June 22-27, 2002, but those dates are subject to change.

I sincerely hope that you decide to apply. Congratulations on your impressive accomplishments.

Sincerely,


Kimberly Watkins-Foote
Executive Director