

## **LOCAL STUDENT, DAVID J. CONBOY, NAMED CANDIDATE IN PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

**David Conboy**, a graduating senior at Seoul American High School, and previously a student at St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, in Kenmore, New York, has been named one of more than 3,000 candidates in the 2012 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The candidates were selected from nearly 3.2 million students expected to graduate from U.S. high schools in the year 2012.

Inclusion in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, now in its 48<sup>th</sup> year, is one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Scholars are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character and involvement in community and school activities.

The 3,000 candidates were selected for their exceptional performance on either the College Board SAT or the ACT Assessment. In addition, each Chief State School Officer (CSSO) was invited to nominate one male and one female candidate, based on their outstanding scholarship, residing in the CSSO's jurisdiction. Further consideration is based on students' essays, self-assessments, descriptions of activities, school recommendations, and school transcripts. A distinguished panel of educators will review these submissions and select 500 semifinalists in early April.

The Commission on Presidential Scholars, a group of some 32 eminent citizens appointed by the President, will make final selection of the Scholars. They will select one young man and one young woman from each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. students living abroad; 15 students at-large; and up to 20 students from the creative and performing arts. The U.S. Department of Education will announce the Scholars in May.

Scholars will be invited to Washington, DC, for several days in June to receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion at a recognition ceremony and to participate in events and activities with their elected representatives, educators, and other leading individuals in public life.

David is the son of David and Karen Conboy. He is a resident of Grand Island, New York and is currently living abroad in Seoul, South Korea with his family. David has been accepted at the University of Notre Dame and is waiting to hear from several other universities. He plans to pursue a dual degree in International Relations and Engineering.

For more information about the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, parents and students can call the U.S. Presidential Scholars Office at 319/341-2PSP (319/341-2777), or send an e-mail to [PSP@act.org](mailto:PSP@act.org).

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NOTE TO NEWS EDITORS: A complete list of candidates is available on the Program's web page <http://www.ed.gov/programs/psp/awards.html> (case sensitive). Semifinalists will be announced early April and Scholars in May. News media without Internet access may call 202/401-1576 for a list of candidates by state. For more information about David Conboy, contact him at [dconboy2012@gmail.com](mailto:dconboy2012@gmail.com)

# THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

## FACT SHEET

The United States 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 high school seniors. In 1979, the Program was extended to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative and performing arts. Each year, up to 141 students are named as U.S. Presidential Scholars, one of the Nation's highest honors for high school students. The Scholars represent excellence in education and the promise of greatness in young people. In honoring the U.S. Presidential Scholars, the President of the United States symbolically honors all graduating high school seniors of high potential.

Students have the opportunity to become U.S. Presidential Scholars based on two paths of accomplishment. The majority of the Scholars are selected on the basis of broad academic achievement. Approximately twenty additional students are selected on the basis of their academic and artistic scholarship in the visual arts, the performing arts, or creative writing.

Each year some 3,000 candidates are identified for the academic component of the program, based on having scored exceptionally well on the SAT or the ACT. Eligible students are U.S. citizens and legal permanent U.S. residents graduating or receiving a diploma between January and August of the current program year, who have taken the SAT or ACT Assessment on or before the preceding October. Students meeting these requirements are automatically considered for participation. Initial inclusion in the pool of eligible candidates is determined by the information (e.g. graduation year) provided by the student on his/her SAT or ACT test registration.

Test scores in each of the states/jurisdictions are reviewed, and the total SAT score is compared to the ACT Sum of Scores. Each student's highest test score (in a single test administration) is identified; duplicates and/or lower scores are dropped. In each state, scores are ranked from high to low. Approximately twenty females and twenty males are selected as candidates from each state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and from families of U.S. citizens living abroad. In addition, each Chief State School Officer (CSSO) may nominate one male and one female candidate, based on their outstanding scholarship, residing in the CSSO's jurisdiction. Students are considered in their states of legal residence, unless they have lived abroad for two years or more. Candidacy materials are mailed to students for participation in the program. Application is by invitation only; students do not apply individually to the program, nor do their schools nominate them.

For the arts component of the Program, students are initially selected based on their artistic ability. Students must register for and participate in *YoungArts*, a national program identifying and recognizing young people demonstrating excellence in the arts. Upon completion of the *YoungArts* program, the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts nominates approximately 60 students who meet the U.S. Presidential Scholars candidacy requirements. Candidacy materials are mailed to those selected students, inviting them to apply to the program.

To confirm their interest and assist in the selection process, all academic and arts candidates complete and submit candidacy materials for review, including essays, self-assessments, secondary school reports and transcripts. A review committee of qualified individuals experienced in secondary and post-secondary education evaluates candidates on their academic

achievement, personal characteristics, leadership and service activities, and the quality and content of their essay.