



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 10, 2023

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Two Alabama Students Named 2023 U.S. Presidential Scholars

“A Total of Ten Alabama Students Selected as Semifinalists for this National Award”

Montgomery, Ala. – U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona today announced the 59th class of U.S. Presidential Scholars, recognizing 161 high school seniors for their accomplishments in academics, the arts, and career and technical education fields.

The Alabama scholars include:

- **Stanley Jerome Stoutamire Jr.**, *John Carroll High School*, Birmingham, Alabama.
- **Sophia Li**, *Mountain Brook High School*, Mountain Brook, Alabama.

“U.S. Presidential Scholars have always represented the future of our country and the bright promise it holds. I want each of these remarkable students to know: your passion and intellect, pursuit of excellence, and spirit of service are exactly what our country needs,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. “I am delighted to join your family, friends, and communities in celebrating your accomplishments. Aim high, share your talents, and continue embracing opportunities to lead as your exciting future unfolds.”

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

See the complete list below of this year’s semifinalists from Alabama for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program award:

- *Thais R. Arslanbekov* - Bob Jones High School
- *Ella R. Duus* - New Century Technology Demo High School
- *Kathryn Kalchik* - Hewitt-Trussville High School
- *Sophia Li* - Mountain Brook High School
- *Mayu A. Nakano* - Indian Springs School
- *Midhun S. Sadanand* - Hoover High School
- *Kaicheng L. Shen* - Auburn High School
- *Stanley Stoutamire* - John Carroll High School
- *Max A. Wyche* - James Clemens High School
- *Dylan L. Zhao* - Vestavia Hills High School

Dr. Eric Mackey, State Superintendent of Education said it is exciting for our state to recognize these outstanding students for this great achievement. “Our state is proud of these wonderful students and their commitment to academic excellence,” said Mackey. “Their hard work, focus, and dedication will continue to serve them well throughout their promising futures.”

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Alabama Students Named 2023 U.S. Presidential Scholars

Of the 3.7 million students expected to graduate from high school this year, more than 5,000 candidates qualified for the 2023 awards determined by outstanding performance on the College Board SAT or ACT exams or through nominations made by chief state school officers, other partner recognition organizations and [YoungArts](#), the National Foundation for the Advancement of Artists.

As directed by Presidential Executive Order, the 2023 U.S. Presidential Scholars are comprised of one young man and one young woman from each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and U.S. families living abroad, as well as 15 chosen at-large, 20 scholars in the arts and 20 scholars in career and technical education.

Created in 1964, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program has honored over 8,000 of the nation's top-performing students. 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.

The Presidential Scholars Class of 2023 will be recognized for their outstanding achievement this summer with an online recognition program.

A complete list of 2023 U.S. Presidential Scholars is also available at <http://www.ed.gov/psp>.

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