



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Dulaney High senior Kathy Yao named 2021 Presidential Scholar**

*One of only 20 in the nation to be honored for accomplishments in career and technical education*

Towson, MD – Kathy Yao of Dulaney High School is among 161 high school seniors inducted into the 57<sup>th</sup> class of U.S. Presidential Scholars, a group of outstanding students recognized for their accomplishments in academics, the arts, and career and technical education fields.

Yao is among one of only 20 Presidential Scholars honored for her achievements in career and technical education. She serves as 2020-21 state president of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). At her school, she is a member of the varsity tennis team and a board member of the Key Club and plays violin in the school's chamber orchestra. In spring 2020, Yao created a nonprofit organization, Awareness for Local Businesses, and through it, she used her marketing and social media knowledge to assist more than 100 small businesses in connecting to customers during the pandemic. She provided these services free of charge and established a network of others to assist.

"The 2021 Presidential Scholars represent extraordinary achievements for our extraordinary times," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "I am delighted to join President Biden in saluting these outstanding young people for their achievements, service, character and continued pursuit of excellence. Their examples make me proud and hopeful about the future. Honoring them can remind us all of the great potential in each new generation and renew our commitment to helping them achieve their dreams."

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

Of the 3.6 million students expected to graduate from high school this year, more than 6,000 candidates qualified for the 2021 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 the National YoungArts Foundation's nationwide [YoungArts™ program](#).

As directed by Presidential Executive Order, the 2021 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 more than 7,600 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 2021 will be recognized for their outstanding achievement this summer.

*(Editor's note: A photo of Yao accompanies this release.)*

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