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Satish named as candidate for U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

State Journal staff report

Feb 5, 2021

A local Gatton Academy student from Western Hills has been named one of 10 seniors named as candidates for the 2021 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.



Diksha Satish, of Frankfort, has been honored as one of the nation's most distinguished graduation high school seniors.

The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars' review committee selects honored scholars annually based on their academic achievement, personal characteristics, leadership, and service activities, in addition to the quality and content of their essays.

Each year, more than 5,000 candidates are identified for the component of the program that focuses on academic achievement and based on having scored exceptionally well on the SAT or the ACT. Eligible students are U.S. citizens and legal permanent U.S. residents who will graduate or receive

their high school diploma between January and August of the current program year and have taken the ACT or SAT assessment on or before October of the previous year.

“These young men and women are outstanding representatives of The Gatton Academy and Kentucky’s youth. They are exceptional in many ways not just academically. They are researchers, problem-solvers, dedicated community volunteers, and caring friends,” said Dr. Lynette Breedlove, Director of The Gatton Academy.

From here, approximately 700 candidates will be named semifinalists, and up to 161 students will be recognized in May as Presidential Scholars. The majority of the Scholars will be selected on the basis of broad academic achievement. Approximately twenty students are selected on the basis of their academic and artistic scholarship in the visual arts, the performing arts, or creative writing. Additionally, approximately 20 additional students will be selected on the basis of their ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields.

If a student is selected as a U.S. Presidential Scholar, they are traditionally honored in Washington, D.C. in June. During the traditional trip, U.S. Presidential Scholars are guests of the U.S. Department of Education and the Commission and enjoy an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with government officials, educators, and other accomplished people. To commemorate their achievement, the Scholars are awarded the U.S. Presidential Scholars medallion at a ceremony sponsored by the White House.

For more information, visit <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/psp/index.html>

The Gatton Academy is Kentucky’s first residential STEM program for gifted and high ability high school juniors and seniors. The Gatton Academy’s students enroll as juniors and are full-time WKU students while pursuing their interests in advanced science, technology, engineering, and mathematical careers. The Gatton Academy has been named to The Washington Post’s list of top-performing schools with elite students for 11 consecutive years.

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