



PRESS RELEASE – ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

For immediate release

Information: Superintendent's Office (714) 628-4487

**El Modena Student Named
2012 U.S. Presidential Scholar Semifinalist**

ORANGE, CA (April 26, 2012) – El Modena High School senior Bryn Watkins is a semifinalist in the 2012 U.S. Presidential Scholars Competition.

Selected based on her tremendous abilities as a ballet dancer, Watkins is one of 56 students selected nationwide as Semifinalist for Presidential Scholar in the Arts.

Application for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Competition is by invitation-only, based on extraordinary scholastic achievement or exceptional talent in the visual, creative, and performing arts.

This is not the first time Watkins has been honored for ballet. She was a Gold Winner of the 2012 Young Arts Competition and a finalist for the LA Music Center Spotlight Awards. She was invited to train with the Houston Ballet last summer and has been offered a full scholarship to join that program. Watkins has also been accepted to The Juilliard School.

El Modena High School Principal John Briquelet stated, "Bryn is an excellent scholar and an incredibly talented young lady. We have been honored with her presence at El Modena for these past four years, and she will be truly missed when she graduates in June."

Semifinalists chosen as U.S. Presidential Scholars receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D. C. in June, and the U.S. Presidential Scholars medallion at a ceremony sponsored by the White House.

For more information on the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, please visit the following website: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/psp/index.html>

The Orange Unified School District is located at 1401 North Handy Street in Orange, CA

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