

## Local students named US Presidential Scholars

By Emily Sweeney | GLOBE STAFF MAY 08, 2017

Kudos to **Amir Siraj** of Brookline, **Sivaram S. Emani** of Newton, **Alkenly S. Ortiz** of Lawrence, and **Catherine L. Wang** of Lexington for being named to this year's class of [US Presidential Scholars](#) — one of the nation's highest honors for high school students.

Next month they'll be feted in Washington, D.C., with other presidential scholars from across the country. A ceremony will be held June 18 and they'll each receive a presidential scholar medallion.

Siraj, a 17-year-old Brookline High School senior and accomplished pianist, is one of only 20 students to be recognized as a US Presidential Scholar in the Arts. He'll join the other arts scholars and put on a special concert at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on June 19.



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**Amir Siraj (pictured performing at the Cliburn International Junior Piano Competition in 2015) is a Brookline High School senior.**