FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TWO ALABAMA STUDENTS AWARDED AP SCHOLAR AWARDS

Montgomery, Ala. – Two highly motivated students from Alabama have just officially earned the State AP Scholar Award. This top national AP Program award is presented to students in recognition of exemplary college-level achievement.

The State AP Scholar Award has been presented each year to a total of two students in each state. This year’s awardees from Alabama are:

- **Sarah Tran** of Virgil Grissom High School – this excellent student now attends the University of Alabama Birmingham
- **Xiaochi Zhang** of Vestavia Hills High School – this excellent student now attends Brown University

The AP Scholar Awards recognize students who have demonstrated exemplary achievement.

Both of Alabama’s top-performing honorees have earned scores of at least 3 or higher on their AP Exams, and their average overall exam scores were some of the highest in the state. The average AP score is determined and based on all exams taken (this year and in previous years).

Students do not receive a monetary award, but instead earn a highly respected national accolade, which can be cited on all college applications and workforce resumes.

Students must meet all criteria to be eligible. The AP Scholar Award recognition levels are:

- **AP Scholar** - Awarded to students receiving scores of 3 or higher on at least three AP Exams.
- **AP Scholar with Honor** - Granted to students receiving an average of 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.
- **AP Scholar with Distinction** - Granted to students receiving average of at least 3.5 on all exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more exams.
- **National AP Scholar** - Awarded to U.S. students receiving average score of at least 4 on all exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on at least eight exams.
- **AP International Diploma** - Awarded to students who display exceptional achievement across a variety of disciplines.

In an effort to reduce any burden on students and parents, the national AP Program has decided to discontinue awards that encourage students to take large numbers of exams. Starting in May 2020, the program will no longer distribute State AP Scholar, DoDEA AP Scholar, and International AP Scholar awards. The National AP Scholar award will also end in 2021.

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Two Alabama Students Honored with State AP Scholar Awards

To learn more about our state’s AP programs and local efforts, contact Alabama State Department of Education AP and IB Program Manager, Dr. Michal Grant Robinson at mrobinson@alsde.edu.

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