



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER COLTON

Hermiston High School seniors Andrea and Sofia Gispert-Tello stand with their parents, Gabino Gispert and Rosario Tello, after receiving Presidential Awards from Oregon State University on Wednesday.

OSU awards siblings with twin scholarships

OSU award totals \$80,000

By JENNIFER COLTON
Staff Writer

Hermiston twins were surprised with \$80,000 in scholarships, Wednesday at Hermiston High School.

"I didn't know this was going on. My dad said he was picking us up, and I thought we were going somewhere else," Andrea Gispert-Tello said. "I had no idea."

Gispert-Tello and her twin sister, Sofia, each received a Presidential Award to Oregon State University. Amanda Hutchinson, regional admissions advisor for OSU, surprised the twins with the formal award, adding the scholarship is awarded

to less than 1 percent of OSU admitted freshmen.

"Sofia and Andrea have shown tremendous leadership and academic excellence," Hutchinson said. "They should really be proud of all that they have accomplished."

To be considered for a Presidential Scholarship, students must be a current Oregon high school senior, have a minimum 3.85 unweighted GPA and a minimum score of 1900 SAT or 29 ACT. Applicants are evaluated based on accomplishments perspectives, experiences and talents; achievements within the context of social and personal circumstances of the student; and participation in activities that develop academic, intellectual and leadership abilities.

The renewable scholarship provides \$10,000 a year for four years, for a total of \$40,000 per student.

OSU is the only school both seniors have on their college list, and the twins said if they do not attend OSU, they likely will not attend the same college. Andrea hopes to study chemical engineering and pre-med to become a dermatologist;

Sofia has her eyes on international business.

Each student has also been accepted into prestigious programs for the spring and summer, including a two-week program at NYU Shanghai for Andrea and a program at Occidental College in Los Angeles for Sofia.

"I am really proud," father Gabino Gispert said. "Really proud."

Umatilla Robotics qualifies for world championships

Team will compete for 3rd time

By JENNIFER COLTON
Staff Writer

For the third time in five years, Umatilla Robotics will compete at the World Championships.

This weekend, Umatilla's FIRST Robotics Competition team, 4125 "Confidential," competed at the Pacific Northwest District Championships in Portland against 159 teams from Oregon and Washington. Confidential brought home the Engineering Inspiration Award, an honor celebrating outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering within a team's school and community.

For Umatilla, the award reflects how members of Confidential volunteer to lead robotics clubs and classes at McNary Heights Elementary School as well as participating and volunteering at community events.

"It's really cool this year because we're going to the championships on a completely different path. This isn't just about the efforts of the robot, this is a whole team award," team mentor Kyle Sipe said Monday. "This award reflects

what the whole team does in this community."

Only one team from each regional competition can win the Engineering Inspiration Award. The honor qualifies Umatilla Robotics to compete at the world championships, April 27-30 in St. Louis, Mo. At the championship, 900 teams and 20,000 students from 39 countries will compete. Among those students will be the 48 members of Team Confidential.

"We've been looking and hotels and talking to Mid-Columbia about bus-ing all day, trying to figure out the logistics of how we're going to get everyone there," Sipe said.

Team Confidential competed in two Pacific Northwest district-level competitions. The team qualified for the regional competition by winning the Chairman's Award at one district-level competition and the Engineering Inspiration Award at the other.

Umatilla Robotics is accepting donations to help the team during the trip to St. Louis. For more information or to donate, contact Umatilla High School at 541-922-6525.

For a full breakdown of how Umatilla's team fared this year, visit <http://frc-districtrankings.firstinspires.org/2016/PNW/4125>.

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