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## Bentley School Students Among CSSSA 2014 California Arts Scholars

*Submitted by Darwin Marable*



Emily LaRoche, one of four Bentley School students selected for the California Arts Scholars 2014 summer session. Photo provided

Four Bentley School students, Emily LaRoche, Milo Narushchen, Margot Witte and Madison Lin, were among the approximately 500 young people selected for the California Arts Scholars 2014 summer session of the California Summer School for the Arts. Drawn from a pool of over 1,600 well-qualified applicants, they are considered to be some of the most outstanding students in the arts from all over the state.

Students hail from all 58 California counties, and demonstrated outstanding artistic excellence in one of the seven CSSSA disciplines: animation, creative writing, film, dance, music, theatre or the visual arts. They were honored by the County Board of Supervisors, along with the other 12 students representing Contra Costa County, at a reception June 3.

CSSSA is a four-week, intensive pre-college program for talented and motivated high school students in the arts, held on the campus of the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) in Valencia July 12-Aug. 8. Participants are selected on the

basis of their artistic promise, artistic potential, talent, and creativity as demonstrated through application/portfolio materials and teacher recommendations.

CSSSA offers a unique opportunity for students to spend one month immersed in a creative laboratory experiencing the inspiring and rigorous daily life of a professional artist. Collaboration across disciplines is emphasized and expanding the boundaries of artistic expression is key. As a bridge from high school to college, the program offers graduates three units of California State University course credit.

Lead support is provided by The Ovation Foundation, a charitable entity of Ovation, America's only arts network, inspiring the world through all forms of art and artistic expression. "It is no secret that arts education is under threat in America. With continuing cuts to arts programs and arts education, The Ovation Foundation is proud to extend opportunities to students across the country," said Sonia Tower, senior vice president, corporate relations for Ovation and president, The Ovation Foundation. "These young artists will receive guidance to reach their full creative potential in the hopes of bolstering the art world."

For more information about CSSSA Summer 2014 visit [www.csssa.ca.gov](http://www.csssa.ca.gov) and [csssaf.org](http://csssaf.org).

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[back](#)

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