



Tuttle Times

Tuttle teenager receives Governor's Scholar Award

By Van Mitchell
Staff Writer

Enrique Thompson and his family moved to the United States from Peru when he was eight years old.

His family settled in Tuttle and he attended

Tuttle Public Schools from second to 10th grade before being accepted into the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics (OSSM) in Oklahoma City.

This week he starts school at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

where he plans to major in mechanical or aerospace engineering with the goal of one day becoming an Air Force pilot, said his mother Marcia Thompson.

"We moved here when he was eight years old and he didn't speak any English,"

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-Photo provided

Enrique Thompson received the Governor's Scholar Award in January.

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Thompson

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she said. "He has worked very hard. He is very proud that he started in Tuttle. We as a family are very proud of him."

OSSM is a state-funded, residential high school for students with ability and interest in science and math who plan to pursue careers in STEM-related fields. One of just 16 similar schools in the nation, OSSM is one of some 100 school members of the National Consortium for Specialized Secondary Schools of Mathematics, Science and Technology (NCSSSMST).

Consortium students are high-performing in SAT/

ACT.

Last January, Thompson was one of 70 OSSM students who received a Governor's Scholar Award from Gov. Mary Fallin. The seniors were recognized for their hard work and dedication.

Fallin proposed beginning in 2017 the award for all students selected to attend the residential campus. This title imparts unique status to each OSSM student based upon their high academic potential and achievement and reflects the pride and investment the State of Oklahoma and the Governor have in each of them and in OSSM.

According to previously published report, Fallin told recipients they have

received a "remarkable and unique opportunity" to attend OSSM, a state-funded school created by the Legislature that offers Oklahoma high school students a rigorous curriculum centered on science, engineering and mathematics.

"You wouldn't be here unless you earned it. Unless you worked hard to study, to put in the time and the effort to be able to go to this school and be selected for it," Fallin said. "Not everybody can go to this school. So it's a big deal for you, and I hope it's an opportunity that all of you will take full advantage of."

Enrique Thompson said in a previous Tuttle Times interview that he credits his family and Tuttle Public Schools for helping achieve his success.

"My achievements would not have been possible without the help, support and guidance of my parents, teachers and counselors of Tuttle Schools," he said. "My success is their success, they have given me the courage to dare, the knowledge to excel, and the belief that I can succeed. They have instilled in me the self-confidence needed to reach my dreams. For all these things, I thank them."

