



## Denning earns spot in US Army All-American Marching Band

Colten Denning, a senior at DeRidder High School, will march in the US Army All-American Marching Band during the halftime show of the US Army All-American Bowl on January 6, 2018, in San Antonio, TX. Selected by the National Association for Music Education in cooperation with All American Games and Drum Corps International, the band features the 125 top marching band members from across the United States.

Denning was nominated by his band director Aaron Theall and was selected from among 1,900 nominations through an audition process demonstrating his playing and marching abilities.

Only senior band members who are actively involved in their high school marching bands may be nominated for the All-American Marching Band. Nominees exhibit exceptional musicianship, marching achievement, character, and leadership.

Denning, a baritone player, is one of only two senior musicians in Louisiana to be selected for this prestigious event for the current year, and is only the second musician in DeRidder High School history to participate in the Army All-American band.

US Army officials visited DHS on October 30<sup>th</sup> to officially invite Colton to join the band and to honor his accomplishments.

“The All-American bands stands for everything my family defended and fought for over the past three generations,” Denning said. “It is pretty amazing to be able to represent my family, school, city, and state at such a prestigious event.”

Denning is the baritone section leader in the DHS Ambassadors in Blue Marching Band. He is a three-time All-State Symphonic Band member and a three-time Academic All-State honoree as well as a two-time Gold Medalist in the Louisiana Solo & Ensemble Competition. He was selected to attend the Carnegie Hall Honors performance Band in the winter of 2016.

Theall, Director of Bands at DHS, was a member of the Army All-American Marching Band in its 2008 inaugural year. As a band director of a selected student, Theall applied for and was accepted into the Director’s Track for the 2018 AAMB. He is one of 40 band directors who will attend the week-long event to participate in professional development and networking among top

band leaders in the nation.

Denning will receive an all-expense paid trip to the bowl. During bowl week, the band members get instruction from top collegiate, high school, and drum and bugle corps instructors as well as educational sessions with members of the U.S. Army Field Band. The bowl game will be broadcast on NBC.

