



# Lincoln-Way District 210

## News Release

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**From: Taryn Atwell**

**Date: September 28, 2017**

**RE: Lincoln-Way Marching Band selected to participate in Rose Bowl Parade**

On Wednesday, September 27, 2017 members of the Lincoln-Way Marching Band (LWMB) received some exciting news from their band directors. After practice, the musicians gathered in the Lincoln-Way Central Auditorium, where each member was handed a single red rose as they viewed a video announcing their invitation to the 130th Annual Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade, to be held on January 1, 2019.

"The Rose Parade is the premier event for high school marching bands. We could not be more proud of all of our current and former students who helped the LWMB receive this invitation. We all are proud to continue the strong history of the Lincoln-Way band participating in the Rose Parade," says Director Justin Barnish.

Junior Hailey Wock says, "I'm at a loss for words...I'm excited to continue on our legacy. Lincoln-Way has so much history and so much pride; now we get to start this next chapter and represent Lincoln-Way in front of millions of people."

The LWMB is one of only nine high school marching bands to be invited to participate in the parade. The application process initially began at the end of May; Directors Dr. Bert Johnson, Justin Barnish, Chris Mroczek, and Cary Ruklic received notification of selection on September 13, 2017.

"The tournament of roses selection committee representative called us during an evening rehearsal," says Director Dr. Bert Johnson. "When I saw a Pasadena number on the phone my heart started racing. The first words I heard were, 'Dr. Johnson, I have some really great news...' I knew we couldn't share it out loud at that moment with the students, so I turned to the other directors and began fist pumping with a giant smile on my face...They knew immediately what was happening. It was an incredibly joyful moment!"

The Tournament of Roses Association, which also owns the Rose Bowl Stadium and Rose Bowl football game, organizes the parade with nearly 1,000 volunteers who work for over an entire year to present the 5 and ½ mile parade with more than 700,000 spectators along the parade route. The parade will be broadcast in 217 countries, in over 20 languages, to over 65 million people worldwide.

Junior Nick Forlenza says, "Over the summer, we went to the Drum Major Institute, and I thought that would be where the bar would be placed. After knowing we're going to the Rose Bowl now, the bar has been thrown 10 miles beyond where I thought it could go."

"What an honor this is to be selected to perform at the 2019 Tournament of Roses Parade," says Director Chris Mroczek. "The student's reaction to the announcement of their selection was wonderful and unbelievable. I am so proud of the students in the Lincoln-Way Marching Band, past and present, and I am positive that they will represent L-W #210 with pride and honor in Pasadena!"

This event will mark the third Lincoln-Way appearance in the Rose Bowl Parade; Lincoln-Way first attended in 1982 and again 2000. "Lincoln-Way has a special relationship with the Rose Parade reaching all the way back to

1982. We are incredibly proud of our students for this accomplishment, and humbled by the opportunity to represent our community in this iconic event," says Director Cary Ruklic.

Band directors have created a webpage where students and families can learn more about the event: [www.lincolnwaymusic.org/roseparade](http://www.lincolnwaymusic.org/roseparade).