Caution: Using numbers of Semifinalists to compare high schools, educational systems, or states will result in erroneous conclusions. The National Merit® Scholarship Program honors individual students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies. The program does not measure the quality or effectiveness of education within a school, system, or state. For more information about the competition, see NMSC’s Web site.

Semifinalists Named in the 2010 National Merit® Scholarship Program

(Evanston, Illinois) Today officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 55th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,200 National Merit Scholarships, worth more than $36 million, that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship® award, Semifinalists must fulfills several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and approximately half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar® title.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by approximately 500 business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC’s goals of honoring the nation’s scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.
Steps in the Competition

More than 1.5 million juniors in about 22,000 high schools entered the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2008 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, which represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state. The number of Semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state’s percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

To become a Finalist, a Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the high school principal, and earn SAT scores that confirm the student’s earlier performance on the qualifying test. The Semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, which includes the student’s essay and information about the Semifinalist’s participation and leadership in school and community activities.

Approximately 15,000 Semifinalists are expected to advance to the Finalist level and it is from this group that all National Merit Scholarship winners will be chosen. Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.

Merit Scholarship Awards

Three types of National Merit Scholarship awards will be offered in the spring of 2010. Every Finalist will compete for one of 2,500 National Merit $2500 Scholarships that will be awarded on a state representational basis. About 1,000 corporate-sponsored scholarships will be provided by approximately 270 corporations and business organizations for Finalists who meet their specified criteria, such as children of the grantor’s employees or residents of communities where sponsor plants or offices are located. In addition, about 200 colleges and universities are expected to finance some 4,700 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for Finalists who will attend the sponsor institution.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2010 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 267,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

#       #       #
Semifinalists: 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program

MINNESOTA

AFTKIN
AFTKIN H. S.
999 Hansen, Michael S.

ALBERTVILLE
ST. MICHAEL - ALBERTVILLE SCHOOL
450 Roden, Brigetta A.

ALEXANDRIA
JEFFERSON H. S.
907 Ryan, Collin H.

ANDOVER
ANDOVER H. S.
455 Reinhart, Wesley
999 Rubash, Jacob T.
791 Squires, Ellen R.

ANOKA
ANOKA H. S.
451 Erickson, Andrew
450 Voltin, Patrick T.

APPLE VALLEY
APPLE VALLEY H. S.
712 Gotter, Abigail K.

ARDEA HILLS
MOUNDS VIEW H. S.
600 Hu, Christina L.
164 Kato, Vince M.
204 Zang, Kevin
904 Zhang, Simon J.
454 Zimmermann, Katherine P.

BAUDETTE
LAKE OF THE WOODS H. S.
628 Palm, Bryce E.

BELLE PLAINE
BELLE PLAINE H. S.
870 Bremseth-Vining, Samuel R.

BEMIDJI
BEMIDJI H. S.
999 Fultz, Roberta A.

BRAINERD
BLAINE H. S.
999 Christiansen, Hannah M.

BLOOMINGTON
THOMAS JEFFERSON H. S.
821 Abrams, Grant B.
171 Kroner, Grace M.

JOHN F. KENNEDY H. S.
901 Schuster, Peter J.

BUFFALO
BUFFALO H. S.
520 Filo, Gina L.

BURNSVILLE
BURNSVILLE H. S.
712 Odom, Megan L.
999 Sink, Joanna F.

CALEDONIA
CALEDONIA H. S.
950 Heim, Brian L.

CHAMPLIN
CHAMPLIN PARK H. S.
455 Kael, Daniel J.

CHANHASSEN
HOME SCHOOL
836 Eastwood, Matt S.

CHASKA
CHASKA H. S.
559 Mussack, Sean P.
160 Ryan, Sydney J.

CIRCLE PINES
CENTENNIAL H. S.
400 Cassell, Samantha J.

COON RAPIDS
COON RAPIDS H. S.
999 Vanasse, Renee

CRYSTAL
HOME SCHOOL
450 Miller, Dale K.

DELANO
DELANO H. S.
999 Hedtke, Melissa M.

DULUTH
DULUTH CENTRAL H. S.
999 Wipson, Max B.

EAST H. S.
740 Fei, Kai
628 Osborne, Acadia R.

MARSHALL SCHOOL
906 Campbell, Mitchell R.
120 Jacobs, Lydia K.

EAGAN
EAGAN H. S.
628 Dulac, John R.
821 Reynolds, Christian F.
999 Schmitt, Lauren M.
303 Veit, Max D.
628 Volla, Viroopa

TRINITY SCHOOL AT RIVER RIDGE
628 Palmer, Andrew T.
550 Sturman, Bethany C.
999 Winkler, Rebecca K.
999 Zenker, Kathleen A.

EDEN PRAIRIE
EDEN PRAIRIE H. S.
999 Berg, Julia M.
821 Beutell, Brett T.
999 Coetzee, Gary M.
740 Deibl, Max N.
999 Fink, Blake M.
303 Fitzgerald, Neil A.
906 Haines, Michelle K.
742 Heinen, Robin
999 Huchse, Elizabeth R.
501 Johnson, Bent B.
171 Lahner, Nicole L.
451 LaVone, Zachary T.
742 Lee, Andrea C.
303 Leng, Xi
628 Ling, Amanda
791 Liler, Adam R.
906 Liu, Tim J.
610 Long, Glian
120 Maran, Julian A.
999 Mehta, Tanay S.
742 Mueller, Christopher C.
821 Myers, Christian
628 Neuhaush, Samuel C.
843 Ross, Anna K.
628 Shah, Tanya
451 Thomesen, Kevin J.
628 Wang, Julia D.
821 Yost, Andrew W.

EDINA
EDINA H. S.
870 Burke, Sophia C.
950 Fletcher, Robert S.
450 Grossman, Max M.
906 Lamo, Madeline
999 Mirman, Hannah F.
999 Niss, Anna C.
454 Peter, Andrew S.
250 Rodriguez, Anna R.
269 Rusk, Samuel J.
430 Rustad, Jenny T.
303 Schmidt, Thomas H.
393 Shimizu, Evan R.
454 Sinivasan, Sharanya
450 Waldo, Anna L.
900 Wallen-Friedman, Silas E.
770 Weiss, Anna S.
999 Wu, Michael P.

FARIBAULT
SHATTUCK - ST. MARY'S SCHOOL
999 Huang, Derek E.

FARMINGTON
HOME SCHOOL
450 Johnson, Kevin

FERGUS FALLS
FERGUS FALLS H. S.
940 Valentine, Ethan P.

HILLCREST LUTHERAN ACADEMY
999 Undseth, Sophia M.

FOREST LAKE
HOME SCHOOL
520 Stomberg, Katherine

FRIDLEY
TOTHINO - GRAACE H. S.
450 Haukki, Matthew R.
467 Lund, Benjamin B.

GROVE CITY
ATWATER - COSMOS - GROVE CITY H. S.
999 Ehrenberg, Samantha K.

HUTCHINSON
HUTCHINSON H. S.
550 Chen, Stephen

INDEPENDENCE
HOME SCHOOL
999 Mundahl, Erin A.

INVER GROVE HEIGHTS
SIMLEY H. S.
450 Labat, Caroline A.
160 Pearson, Eleanor C.

JORDAN
JORDAN H. S.
450 LaMoore, Nick D.

LAKEVILLE
LAKEVILLE NORTH H. S.
250 Thomas, Taylor M.
940 Werner, Morgan R.
906 Zhou, Karen

LAKEVILLE SOUTH H. S.
836 Fiedler, Korine M.
162 Lund, Sarah R.
454 McMahon, Melissa

LONG LAKE
ORONO H. S.
455 Benson, Whitney L.
946 Bjornsdottir, Ragnheidur Thor
161 Lips, Anne M.
999 Manzoni, Charlie
999 Moline, Annika L.

MADISON
LAC QUI PARLE VALLEY H. S.
628 Schwenk, Haley N.

MAHTOMEDI
MAHTOMEDI H. S.
999 Reinke, Laura R.
999 Ver Steegh, Jonathan L.

MAPLE GROVE
MAPLE GROVE H. S.
166 Kwon, Juhee

MAPLEWOOD
HILL - MURRAY SCHOOL
200 Behrens, John T.

MAYER
LUTHERAN H. S.
161 Bening, Maria

MENDOTA HEIGHTS
CONVET OF THE VISATION SCHOOL
906 Rossow, Sarah
168 Vanderbough, Alison H.

HENRY SIBLEY H. S.
792 Kennedy, Daniel
832 Paradise, Ady V.

ST. THOMAS ACADEMY
450 Badger, Ellen L.
901 Garry, John P.
522 Palmer, Riley J.
407 Riemer, Mark A.
628 Walsh, Thomas M.

MILACA
MILACA H. S.
430 Christiansen, Deanna J.

MINNEAPOLIS
BLAKE SCHOOL - NORTHROP CAMPUS
550 Carter, Michael T.
467 Fluke, Lowell D.
628 Heitman, Laura E.
720 Henmady, Mikhaela C.
000 Kroll, Camille L.
999 Madsen, Thomas C.
999 Marshall, Susananna M.
907 O'Neil, Jennifer E.
836 Pattee, Jack W.
168 Sheftels, Erin M.
910 Stesin, Marlee L.
522 Walden, John D.
904 Webber, Daniel F.

BRECK SCHOOL
120 Bell, Henry A.
628 Lillehei, Haley S.
943 Notting, Margaret R.
999 Paulsen, Katherine M.
000 Rice, Maurk A.
906 Ross, Katherine S.
628 Testor, Kristina
628 Yueh, Nathan J.

DE LA SALLE H. S.
999 Capecci, Jason M.
870 Elftstrand, L. K.

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY
520 Georges, Ellen C.

SOUTH H. S.
999 Calvit, Samuel J.
836 Mahony, Tyler

SOUTHWEST H. S.
450 Bielinski, Ashley R.
950 Davis, Isabella N.
830 Lauth, Caroline A.
520 MacNally, Mikayla M.
741 Milavitz, Rose E.
303 Riddle, Christopher J.
999 Styles, Ruth L.
500 Ulrich, Mark B.

MINNETONKA
HOME SCHOOL
451 Anderson, Keir A.
740 Bunday, Matthew K.
740 Tetzlaff, Michael D.

HOPKINS H. S.
940 Gallup, Keelin C.
600 Gao, Robert W.
450 Loheit, Jennifer M.
628 Rao, Eshaan R.
999 Sadowsky, Lauren M.
947 Snyder, Sarah

MINNETONKA H. S.
999 Begun, Michael W.
Minnesota (continued)

628 Handlogten, Amy B.
628 Kaur, Pampreet
600 Manduca, Cathryn M.
450 Zemke, Joshua M.

HOMESCHOOL
450 Anderson, Aaron A.

MAYO H. S.
740 Bahn, Carl M.
628 Hagan, Bethany G.
999 Ishlani, Catherine
161 Lewis, Emily R.
628 Matern, Lukas H.
999 Mundy, Abigail L.
628 Somers, Kristen V.
254 Williams, Claire M.
722 Young, Allison L.

ROSEVILLE
ROSEVILLE AREA H. S.
522 Chresand, Theresa I.
945 Faegen, Karen V.
774 Galindo, Alexander M.
162 Koepp, Carson J.
160 Lee, Nicole D.
999 Lucken, Emma
171 Seong, Jungeun
742 Stout, Zachary A.

SARTELL
SARTELL H. S.
628 Brindle, Taylor

SAVAGE
PRIOR LAKE H. S.
900 Boutelle, Alyssa M.
627 Swarn, Stephanie M.

SHAKOPEE
SHAKOPEE H. S.
821 Mulcrone, Carter J.

ST. PAUL

AVONAL SCHOOL
303 Lesisco, Matthew
720 Olof, Lucas
529 Purvey, Lee A.

CENTRAL H. S.
742 Camacho, Martin A.
740 Johnson, Eric M.
901 Lee, Christine S.
999 Renken, Anna L.

COMO PARK H. S.
999 Kahn, Amelia R.
906 Naujen, Hannah P.
742 Roth, Leah K.

CRETIN - DERHAM HALL
168 Pohli, Adriana C.

HIGHLAND PARK H. S.
843 Gunaratne, Ananda C.
772 Kaplan, Tam H.

MOUNDS PARK ACADEMY
906 Baudry, Eric D.
450 Brooksbank, Julia O.

ST. PAUL ACADEMY AND SUMMIT SCHOOL
160 Cass, Abraham A.
830 Ibele, Alexander M.
600 Kaila, Daniel T.
522 Lavercombe, Harry G.

STILLWATER
STILLWATER AREA H. S.
999 Ross, Errin M.

THIEF RIVER FALLS
LINCOLN H. S.
742 Bates, Stephen D.

TWO HARBORS
TWO HARBORS H. S.
999 Peterson, Sonja B.

VICTORIA
HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC H. S.
723 Henkel, Max C.
628 Pohlen, Michael S.

WHITE BEAR LAKE
WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA H. S.
455 Hlaechrel, Megan A.
303 Taylor, Daniel B.

WILLMAR
WILLMAR H. S.
628 Lelich, Brooklyn V.

WOODBURY

NEW LIFE ACADEMY
630 Thraen, Linnea K.

WOODBURY H. S.
999 Nelson, Cody S.
160 Sun, Amy Y.