

**Denton Independent School District
Board of Trustees
Certificates of Recognition
November 10, 2009**

DENTON ISD

29 students chosen for national merit scholar program

Twenty-nine seniors from the Denton Independent School District have been recognized in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship program.

National Merit Semifinalists

The district had eight seniors named National Merit Semifinalists. They are part of an elite group of only 16,000 semifinalists chosen nationwide. This is the largest number from Denton ISD to receive this honor in more than 10 years.

Denton High

Patrick Burke, son of Kevin and Rose Burke, is a member of the National Honor Society, Amnesty International and the Denton High academic decathlon team. He is active in the math club, eco club and French club. He plans to attend the University of Washington and study political science.

Trevor Davila, son of Troy Davila, is an active member in the Denton High orchestra and math club. He is unsure of his college selection but plans on majoring in mathematics or computer science.

Sylvia Li, daughter of Chi-tien and Pei-chuan Li, is a member of the Denton High orchestra, math club, eco club, Spanish club and National Honor Society. She is also active in yoga and Tae Kwon Do. Li is undecided on her college choice but plans on majoring in engineering or environmental science.

Clarissa Root, daughter of Doug and Alexey Root, is a member of the Denton High chamber orchestra, wind ensemble and swim team. She is unsure of her college choice but plans on majoring in biology.

Christine Ryu, daughter of Dojin and Myungsook Ryu, is a member of the Denton High chamber orchestra, Junior Classical League, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, National Latin Honor Society and Health Occupations Students of America. She is undecided on her college selection but plans on majoring in psychology.

Ryan High

Nathaniel Miles, son of Grant Miles and Evelyn Pitre, is a member of the Ryan High orchestra, French club and Wiz Quiz team. He is also a two-time regional qualifier and state qualifier in UIL literary criticism. Miles is undecided on his major, but plans on attending either the University of Texas at Austin, the University of California-Berkley or McGill University in Montreal.

Kate McPherson, daughter of Michael and Karen McPherson, is a member of Ryan High's student newspaper, Latin Club, National Honor Society, Amnesty International and participated in UIL Literacy Criticism, UIL Social Studies and UIL Current Issues. She is undecided on her college selection, but plans on double majoring in journalism and English.

Guyer High

Matthew Price, son of Robert and Katie Price, is a member of the Guyer High choir, marching band and National Honor Society. He is also active in the theater department, his church youth ministry and Boys State. Price plans on attending Rice University and majoring in mechanical engineering.

With their selection, all eight students are eligible to receive one of 8,200 Merit Scholarship awards. The total scholarship money is more than \$20 million. Less than one percent of students taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test qualify as National Merit Semifinalists.

All National Merit Semifinalists will be notified in February if they are selected as a National Merit Finalist.

National Merit Commended Scholars

Denton ISD also had 17 seniors recognized as commended scholars by the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program and six seniors recognized by the national achievement and Hispanic recognition programs.

Denton High

The commended scholars from Denton High include:

Jonathan Berg, son of Kris Berg and Maria Harris;

Timothy De Reuse, son of Willem De Reuse and Shobhana Chelliah;

Julia Difiore, daughter of Richard and Linda Difiore;

Julia Moen, daughter of William and Monica Moen.

Ryan High

Nine of the commended scholars attend Ryan High. They include:

Jaimie Anderson, daughter of Timothy and Melanie Anderson;

Emily Ashby, daughter of David and Amy Ashby;

Nikolajs Birze, son of Michael and Brigitte Birze;

Erin Elliott, daughter of Kristen Elliott and Weber Baker and Michael Elliott;

Cody Phelps, son of Dale and Leah Phelps;

Bryce Poirier, son of John and Terisa Poirier;

Micah Rickard, son of Wayne and Amy Rickard;

Maxwell Simmons, son of Kim Simmons and Mike and Lisa Simmons;

Fernando Yanez, son of Paulino and Maricela Yanez.

Guyer High

Those recognized from Guyer High include:

Kevin Borges, son of Orlando and Maricel Borges;

Kathleen Gorman, daughter of David Gorman and Elizabeth Varadi;

Jordan Lambert, daughter of Arthur and Elizabeth Lambert;

Christopher Wilbanks, son of Timothy and Dana Wilbanks.

There were less than 34,000 commended scholars recognized by the National Merit Scholarship program nationwide and each placed in the top five percent on the PSAT/NMSQT test. And while commended students are not eligible to compete for National Merit Scholarships, many are selected for Special Scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses associated with the National Merit program.

National Achievement Scholarship Program

The National Achievement Scholarship program recognized two students.

Guyer High

Michael A. Moore, son of Charles and Karen Moore, was named to the National Achievement Scholarship Program.

Denton High

Christyauna Clark, daughter of Wilbur and Angela Clark, also was recognized.

These students scored in the top three percent of more than 160,000 Black Americans who requested considerations in the 2010 National Achievement Program.

National Hispanic Recognition Program

The National Hispanic Recognition Program recognized four students.

Denton High

Stephen Place, son of Donald and Charlotte Place, was named to the National Hispanic Recognition Program.

Trevor Davila was also named to this program.

Ryan High

Marco Torres, son of Adolfo and Margarita Torres, was named to the National Hispanic Recognition Program.

Fernando Yanez was also named to this program.

These students, who must be at least one-quarter Hispanic, were among the 5,000 highest-scoring students in the United States and U.S. Territories taking the PSAT/NMSQT.

DENTON ISD

GHS student receives international honor for online learning project

Guyer High School senior **Elizabeth West** has been recognized by UniServity as a winner in the second annual Learning Platform Awards for Excellence.

The awards recognize and celebrate the success of schools and individuals from around the world who use creative and innovative ways to support teaching and enrich the learning experience by using the cLc Learning Platform.

The cLc (connected learning communities) is a web-based collaborative and personalized learning environment which has been developed in conjunction with schools, education authorities/districts and prominent thought leaders in education.

West earned this recognition for her work on her cLc learning portfolio. On her educational space online, West posted learning activities for students around the world to use and learn languages like German, French, Italian and American Sign Language. West's website also featured a section for learning to play the trumpet.

West has studied four years of German, four years of French, one year of Spanish and is currently learning Italian on her own. She plans on studying foreign languages at UNT upon graduating, but has her sights set on studying in Germany for a year before starting college.

Stephen Shade, department head of world languages at Guyer, supported and assisted West throughout the process. West received a crystal trophy for her creative work online, while Guyer received a check for \$816 on behalf of UniServity.

DENTON ISD

School district earns national technological recognition

The Denton Independent School District has been named one of the Top 10 technologically advanced school districts in the country by the Center for Digital Education.

School districts across the United States took part in the survey and were broken down into three classifications: large (15,000 students or more), medium (2,500 to 14,999 students) and small (below 2,500 students). Denton ISD was one of only four districts in Texas to earn a Top 10 ranking in any classification.

The study, sponsored by the Center for Digital Education, National School Boards Association and *Converge* magazine, analyzes the use of technology by school districts to communicate with students, parents, staff and the community as well as how it is implemented to improve district operations.

All top-ranked districts were honored at an awards reception during the NSBA's Technology and Learning Conference, Oct. 29, in Denver, Colorado.

Board of Trustees Glenna Harris and Mia Price, along with Technology Officer Ernie Stripling and Instructional Technology Director Robert Bostic, were presented the award.

Besides the award, all honorees will also be featured on the Center for Digital Education website and in *Converge* online.