

**Denton Independent School District  
Board of Trustees  
Certificates of Recognition  
Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2010**

**DENTON ISD**

**20 Students honored by National Merit programs**

**National Merit Semifinalists**

The Denton Independent School District had 20 students recognized this fall in the various National Merit programs.

Three seniors have been named National Merit Semifinalists. These students are among the highest scoring entrants in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship program in the state and part of an elite group of 16,000 semifinalists chosen nationwide.

Denton High seniors Katherine Dubberly and Robert Ponder and Ryan High's Kayla Cunningham made the prestigious list. Denton ISD has produced 28 National Merit Semifinalists in the past eight years.

With their selection, the three students are eligible to receive one of 8,400 Merit Scholarship awards. The total scholarship money is more than \$21 million. Less than one percent of students taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test qualify as National Merit Semifinalists.

**Katherine Dubberly**, daughter of Stephen and Elizabeth Dubberly, is a former member of the Denton High band, performs with her church orchestra and also serves as a lifeguard and swim instructor. She plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin and study psychology and Spanish.

**Robert (RJ) Ponder**, son of Tom and Jennifer Ponder, is a member of the National Honor Society, Denton High orchestra, Denton High yearbook staff and plays on the Broncos varsity soccer and tennis teams. He plans to attend the University of Oklahoma and study chemical engineering.

**Kayla Cunningham**, daughter of Kevin and Karla Cunningham, is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Club, Wiz Quiz team and Ryan High orchestra. She plans on attending either Rice, Vanderbilt or Columbia universities and wants to study chemistry.

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

**National Merit Commended Scholars**

Denton ISD also had 13 seniors recognized as commended scholars by the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Nine of these scholars attend Guyer High including:

**Kyler Cook**, son of Linette Cook, is a member of the Key Club, Habitat for Humanity, UIL competition teams and serves as a volunteer at Harpool Middle School. He plans to attend Princeton University and study engineering.

**Nicholas Eason**, son of Fred and Peg Eason, is a member of the National Honor Society, Chess Club and serves as a volunteer at Blanton Elementary. He plans on attending either the University of Texas at Austin, the University of North Texas or Johns Hopkins University to study biology.

**Soohyun Kim**, daughter of Mikyoung Kwon and Chulhoe Kim, is a member of the Guyer band, National Honor Society and art club. She is undecided on her college choice, but wants to study animation.

**Corey Marple**, son of Everett and Sheila Marple, is a member of the Key Club, National Honor Society, League of Friends and Health Occupation Student Organization. He is undecided on his college choice, but wants to study engineering.

**Allison Parker**, daughter of Charlie and Kathy Parker, is a member of the debate team. She plans on attending Rice, Duke or Washington universities and study cognitive sciences.

**Mindy Pile**, daughter of Kerry Pile, is a member of the Guyer orchestra, color guard and forensics team. She is undecided on her college choice, but wants to study computer science.

**Zachary Washam**, son of Mark and Chris Washam, is active in writing music and scripts as well as making short films. He is undecided on his college choice, but wants to study psychology.

**Rachel Wetherington**, daughter of John and Denise Wetherington, is a member of the Guyer varsity tennis team, National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, Habitat for Humanity and Advanced Social Studies Mentors group. She plans on attending either Princeton University or Abilene Christian University to study social work.

**Patrick Yoo**, son of Sun and Yong Yoo, is the Guyer Student Council President and a member of the varsity football team, National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, Key Club and Habitat for Humanity. He plans on attending Princeton University or one of the U.S. service academies and is undecided on his area of study.

Denton High had three commended scholars.

**Francesca Farris**, daughter of Frank and Heidi Farris, is a member of the Denton orchestra, Junior Classical League, National Honor Society, National German Honor Society, Amnesty International, multicultural club and creative writing club. She plans to attend Rice University and study German.

**Parker Lawson**, son of Craig and Karen Lawson, is a member of the Denton orchestra, Student Council, National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, Academic Decathlon and Honor Guard. He plans to attend Abilene Christian University and study biology.

**Kayla Tunnell**, daughter of James Tunnell and Ellen Greenwald, is the senior lieutenant on the Denton Fillies drill team and a member of the varsity choir, student council, National Honor Society and Interact Club. She plans to attend Williams College in Massachusetts and study psychology and dance.

Ryan High had one commended scholar.

**Annika Nelson**, daughter of Jon Nelson and Claire Sahlin, is a captain of the Ryan Raider Band and a member of the National Honor Society, UIL math competition team and serves as a volunteer at the Elm Fork Education Center. She plans on attending Oberlin College in Ohio or Macalester College in Minnesota to study environmental science and math.

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 Scholars**

The National Achievement Scholarship program recognized four students.: Kristopher Carmona and Raven Vincent from Denton High, Taylor Ellis from Guyer High and Kayla Cunningham from Ryan High.

**Kayla Cunningham**, daughter of Kevin and Karla Cunningham, was Ryan High's National Merit Semifinalist and also was named a National Achievement Semifinalist. She was one of only 1,600 to receive this honor nationwide.

**Kristopher Carmona**, son of Kevin and Kathleen Carmona, is a member of the Denton High orchestra, student council, National Honor Society, Latin club and math club. He plans to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and study engineering.

**Raven Vincent**, daughter of James and Robyn Vincent, is a member of the Denton varsity volleyball team and is an active singer and songwriter. She plans to attend Southern Methodist University and study business administration.

**Taylor Ellis**, daughter of Bretan and Chris Redmond and Willie and Cheryl Ellis, is a member of the forensics team and art club at Guyer. She is undecided on her college choice, but plans on studying architecture.

These students scored in the top three percent of more than 160,000 Black Americans who requested considerations in the 2011 National Achievement Program.

Denton ISD has produced 74 National Merit Commended Scholars and 11 National Achievement Scholars in the past eight years.

## **ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY COMPLEX**

### **ATC students, staff break electric dragster world record**

Students and staff from the Denton Independent School District's LaGrone Advanced Technology Complex recently broke the National Electric Dragster Association's world record for their electric junior dragsters, the third record broken by the ATC group.

Russ Keith, automotive technology instructor, completed the record run in the student-designed and built dragster on the one-eighth-mile track at North Star Dragway in Sanger in 9.93 seconds. The new time broke the previous world record by more than a half of a second. The previous mark in National Electric Dragster Association's class for 72 volt dragsters was 10.49 seconds.

A test run of the vehicle at 75 percent power on the same track produced a time of 10.9 seconds and a new NEDA high school world record in August. The ATC students and staff made some adjustments on the vehicle and, this time, delivered the world record on Oct. 30.

Students from the ATC's engineering, auto technology and welding departments have combined with staff and area businesses to spend more than 1,000 man hours in and out of the classroom environment to build and develop this world-class electric dragster.

The instructors included: Russ Keith, automotive and aircraft technology instructor; Matt Howard, automotive technology instructor; Thomas Babb, engineering instructor who headed up the Lead the Way Program that got students involved in the project; Chuck Brazile, welding and architecture instructor, and Joe Ortowski, retired welding and CNC manufacturing instructor. Marty Thompson, director of career and technical education and ATC dean, and Carla Ruge, assistant dean of the ATC, helped oversee the project.

### **2010 Original Design and Build Team**

Students who served on the original Design and Build Team graduated in 2010. Those graduates include: Brandon Cristwell, Dylan Stiles and Austin Featherstone, Denton High; Dalton Arledge and Maxwell Simmons, Ryan High, and Arron Noack, Krum High.

### **Generation II Design and Build Team**

Students who assisted from the Generation II Design and Build Team are Miguel Raygoza, MariPen Yeatts, and Sihai Tang, Denton High; Casey Clayton, Matthew McArdle, Cameron Neufeld and Ahmad Rashed, Guyer High; Miguel Adrian, Cody Canuteson, Eunice Esparza, Mateo Perez, Caleb Roberson, Ryan Cartright and Brennan Kennedy, Ryan High, and Ben Jenkins and Joshua Powell, home-schoolers.

### **Auto Tech I**

The Auto Tech I students include: Frederick Luengas, Raul Soberanes, Robert Bayer, Ariel Santini, Kameron Sneed, Jose Jimenez, Alex Johnson and Arturo Perez, Denton High; Jack Gary, Kevin Zavala and James Kiilu, Guyer High; Eduardo Wences, Blake Braudrick, Terry Russell and Jonathan Young, Ryan High; Kade Patterson and Dane Phariss, Lake Dallas High; Michael Pritchard and Jose Villanueva, Argyle High, and Andrew Lucas and Jerad Peach, Little Elm High.

### **Auto Tech II**

The AutoTech II students include: Brady Beavers, Cierra Falkner, Alan Johnson, Honorio Melchor, Cole Mullens and Aaron Sandoval, Denton High; Josh Bilous, Cameron Day, Brandon Koehler, Matt Lambert, Rena Medina, and Bobby Street, Guyer High; Ernest Chapa, Efrain Delgado, Saul Lopez, Julian Rincon, Adan Rodriguez and Brian Valdez, Ryan High; Alisa Galpin and Jordan Gothard, Aubrey High; Chris Perez, Sanger High, and Hunter Steadman, Lake Dallas High.