

**Denton Independent School District**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**Certificates of Recognition**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2007**

**DISD announces national semifinalist, commended scholars**

The Denton Independent School District has announced that 12 seniors have been honored for their high scores on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT), an assessment taken by high school juniors nationwide.

One senior from Denton High, Taerim Kim, has been named National Merit Semifinalist. He is among an elite group of only 1,600 semifinalists throughout the United States who were named in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Taerim is the son of Chulhoe and Mikyong Kim. He is active in the Bronco Band and also plays in the Wind Ensemble. He is treasurer of the German Club, a member of the National Honor Society and drum major in the band. He is on the UIL math and computer science teams. Taerim is now eligible to compete for 8,000 Merit Scholarship Awards, which totals more than \$30 million in scholarships. Less than one percent of the students taking the PSAT qualified as a National Merit Semifinalist.

In addition to the semifinalist, Denton ISD had eight commended scholars.

There were three commended scholars from Denton High. Benjamin Hokamp, son of Barbara and Mark Hokamp, is involved in the Denton High Choir. Joseph Tucker, son of Eric and Michelle Tucker and Cynthia Tucker, is involved in the Math Club and is on the Cross Country team. Theodore Yan, son of Linghwey Jeng, is in the Denton High Madrigal Choir.

There were two commended students from Guyer High. Mary Lockwood, daughter of Marisa and Peter Lockwood, is involved in the Guyer Choir. Callie Windle, daughter of Molly and Jeff Windle, is active in Guyer's Student Council.

There were three students from Ryan High who received letters of commendation. Stephanie Moor, daughter of David and Linda Moor, is in the Ryan High band, Color Guard, Winter Guard and National Honor Society. Sarah Simington, daughter of Ron and Diane Simington, is the choir president and is also in the RHS Show Choir and National Honor Society. Melanie Welch, daughter of Kyla and Dennis Welch, is active in the International Thespian Society, vice president of the Art Club, and a member of the National Forensics League.

To be named a commended scholar, the students had to place in the top five percent nationwide on the PSAT test. There were less than 34,000 commended students nationwide.

The district had two students from Ryan High School who were named to the National Achievement Scholarship Program. They were Brittany Miles, who graduated early last year, and Ebonie Simpson. Ebonie's parents are Felton and Toni Simpson and is secretary of BPA, vice president of Project DELTA and Rotary Interact, and active in PALS.

They were among the top five percent of the more than 140,000 Black Americans who requested consideration in the 2008 National Achievement Program when they took the PSAT.

From Ryan High, Chance M. Maggard, son of Chad and Praise Hall, was named as National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar Finalist. Chance, who is active in RHS Band, BPA and Literary Magazine, was among the top five percent of Hispanic students to take the PSAT.

These 12 students were among the 1.2 million students from 20,000 high schools who entered the 2008 Merit Program. They were juniors when they took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.