



For immediate release

Media contacts: Lesley Range-Stanton, Plano Independent School District, 469.752.8094
Nancy Long, APR, Plano Independent School District, 469.752.8147

Plano ISD Salutes 90 National Merit Semifinalists

(Plano, Texas) September 16--The Plano Independent School District joins with the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) today to recognize 90 seniors who have been awarded National Merit Semifinalist status.

These Plano ISD students are among the 16,000 academically talented high school seniors who have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,200 National Merit Scholarships, worth more than \$36 million, that will be awarded next spring. To be considered for a 2010 National Merit Scholarship, Semifinalists must fulfill arduous academic and application requirements to advance to the Finalist level of competition. Of the estimated 90 percent of the Semifinalists who achieve Finalist standing, approximately half will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto said, “I congratulate each of these outstanding students receiving this honor recognizing individual performance, academic ability and the potential for successful pursuit of rigorous college programs. Our district salutes each of these scholastic champions and wishes them success in their endeavors to advance in this prestigious scholarship program.”

Semifinalists from Plano East Senior High School are:

- Andrew R. Austin
- Amber S. Bhargava
- Jeremy T. Chang
- Borithi R. Chean
- Albert Chen
- Jared M. Christen
- Beverly M. Finneburgh
- Eun S. Kang
- Natalie R. Lazarescou
- Brendon B. Lu
- Marissa Miller
- Nageen K. Mir
- Nilay Y. Modi
- Hari S. Raman
- Tianhe Ren
- Suhith G. Shivani
- Yuan Tao
- Richa Thakur
- Carmen R. Tinker
- Alex C. Wang
- McIntyre L. Watts
- Matthew G. Wheatley
- Shruti R. Zaveri

Semifinalists from Plano Senior High School are:

- Prateek Bhattacharya
- Katherine E. Borner
- Julie C. Chang
- Elizabeth L. Chen
- Jane Chen
- Zi-on Cheung
- Stephen T. Cook
- Ryan M. Dewey
- Neil M. Dsouza
- Jennifer W. Gao
- Vineet Gopal
- Kushal Gulati
- Huashu Huang
- Benjamin Hwu
- David Jiang
- Sravanthi Kadali
- Ryan A. Kiel
- Isabella Y. Kuo
- Xingchen Li
- Tony X. Lian
- Huiwen Liu
- Douglas G. Schadt
- Parth J. Vyasa
- Maura K. Wade
- Jason B. Wan
- Cindy S. Wang
- Leah A. Weintrub
- Brian J. Widder
- Albert K. Xiao
- Olyver K. Yau
- Xinyue Ye
- Celina C. You
- Alicia J. Young
- Haoshu Yuwen
- Janice R. Zhang

Semifinalists from Plano West Senior High School are:

- Vaibhav Agarwala
- Davis H. Ballew
- William L. Butcher
- Andrea M. Chang
- Jamison J. Chang
- Kevin Chiou
- U Hyuk Choi
- Carrie D. Dempster
- Daniel E. Gonzalez
- Isaac A. Hellemn
- Justin P. Howard
- Winston D. Hurst
- Dmitri V. Ilushin
- Rebecca John
- Elliott J. Joo
- Quinn Marie Leary
- Kenny A. Lee
- Elisa B. Lin
- Louis Lu
- Corie B. Miller
- Sylvianne T. Nguyen
- Joshua H. Ou
- Tina Ou
- Grace J. Park
- Megan E. Poorman
- Philip M. Rosen
- Jennifer E. Sheppard
- Visakha Suresh
- Tiffany L. Wang
- Michael S. Wei
- Grace Wey
- Megan C. Yu

About Plano Independent School District

The Plano Independent School District (Plano ISD) – <http://www.pisd.edu/> – endeavors to foster the highest level of student learning. The mission of Plano ISD is to provide an excellent education for all students. Plano ISD is located twenty miles north of Dallas, Texas and serves the residents of approximately 100



square miles in southwest Collin County, including 66 square miles in the city of Plano, northern portions of the cities of Dallas and Richardson and parts of the cities of Allen, Parker and Murphy. Plano ISD employs 7,000 faculty and staff members who serve more than 54,000 students in sixty-seven schools, three special programs including Head Start, and eleven service facilities. Participating in Plano ISD schools enables students to adapt to new learning opportunities throughout their lives, collaborate with, and contribute to, the global community and to be creative and disciplined in their thinking.