



PRESS RELEASE

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Fifty-three Seniors Named 2012 National Merit Semifinalists

Poway Unified joins with the National Merit Scholarship Corporation in recognizing 53 seniors who have been awarded Merit Semifinalist standing in the 57th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These PUSD students are among the 16,000 academically talented seniors who have the opportunity to continue in the competition for 8,300 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$34 million to be awarded next spring.

Dr. John Collins, PUSD Superintendent, said, "Congratulations to each of these outstanding students for receiving this honor which reflects on individual student performance and academic ability. I extend my best wishes for much success to each student as they continue their studies in school, and their advancement in the scholarship program."

This year PUSD has the most seniors ever recognized for this prestigious program. The most previously was 36 seniors.

Poway Unified Board of Education President Penny Ranftle said, "We are proud to honor these students and wish them continued success as they pursue future educational and career opportunities."

To be considered for a 2012 National Merit Scholarship, Semifinalists must fulfill academic and application requirements to advance to the Finalist level of competition. About 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing and more than half will win a National Merit

Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title. The requirements include an outstanding academic record throughout high school, and earning SAT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the test that qualified the student as a semifinalist.

National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists:

Del Norte High School

Diane Heflin

Mt. Carmel High School

Shuchi Chaturvedi

Savannah Crawl

Blake Eaton

Qinyi Fan

Jason Gao

Timothy Kinsey

Amanda Vu

Olivia Wu

Janis Yue

Poway High School

Karyn Brown

Neil Dalvie

Won-Ji Lee

Stephen Sabo

Anna Schwab

Peter Thomas

Rancho Bernardo High School

Alex An

Jennifer Chalam

Carrie Chen

Christine Curl

Helen Fang

David Hu

Yifan Huang

Connie Kang

Rancho Bernardo High School (cont'd)

Rachel Lee

Morgan Mastrovich

Kamal Obbad

Seth Padmabandu

Vivek Rangaswamy

Emily Zhao

Westview High School

Tony Chen

Lydia Chin

George Du

Adam Eagle

Sean Fowler

Joshua Hafford

Sherry Huang

Divya Kothandapani

Christine Li

Lasya Marla

Alex Nguyen

Andrew Ouyang

Lochan Shah

Robert Shaw

Benjamin Statz

Brenda Tang

George Tye

Eric Wang

Edward Xiao

Julia Yang

Benjamin Yu

Peter Zhao

Snow Zhu