



Press Release

For Immediate Release
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Northwest ISD Senior Named National Merit Semifinalist

Byron Nelson High School (BNHS) senior Lauren Gilmer is one of 16,000 semifinalists in the 57th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Byron Nelson High School will graduate its first senior class in June, and Gilmer is the school's first semifinalist in history.

Gilmer will have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,300 Merit Scholarships, worth more than \$34 million, offered next spring. About 90 percent of the semifinalists are expected to achieve finalist standing, and approximately half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the title of Merit Scholar.

"We are so proud of the achievements of Lauren Gilmer," said Byron Nelson High School Principal Linda Parker. "This is a wonderful accomplishment for her, and we are so proud to have a National Merit Semifinalist for the first-time in school history at Byron Nelson High School."

Semifinalists enter the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2010 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). To achieve finalists status, Gilmer must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the high school principal, and earn SAT scores that confirms her performance on the qualifying test. Gilmer, along with a high school official will submit a detailed scholarship application, including the student's essay and information about the semifinalist's participation and leadership in school and community activities.

Gilmer, a resident of Trophy Club, is a lieutenant for the Byron Nelson High School color guard and a member of the national honor society. She plans to pursue a college degree in psychology.

Approximately 15,000 semifinalists are expected to advance to the finalist level, where all National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected. Winners will be announced this spring.

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