



**Northwest**  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

# News Release

For Immediate Release  
September 12, 2013

## **Byron Nelson High School Senior Named National Merit Semifinalist**

Byron Nelson High School senior Brady Whitfield is among the approximately 16,000 semifinalists in the 59<sup>th</sup> annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Whitfield will have an opportunity to advance in the competition for some 8,000 National Merit Scholarships worth approximately \$35 million that will be offered next spring. About 90 percent of the semifinalists are expected to achieve finalist standing, and more than half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the title of Merit Scholar.

“Byron Nelson High School is so proud of Brady,” says Principal Linda Parker, Ed.D. “He is dedicated, hardworking and talented in the classroom and in his extracurricular activities.”

Semifinalists enter the 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2012 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). To achieve finalists status, they must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the high school principal, and earn SAT scores that confirms their earlier performance on the qualifying test.

Brady Whitfield is captain of the tennis team at Byron Nelson High School. He is planning to attend the United States Naval Academy and pursue a double major in economics and political science.

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. These scholarship recipients will join more than 300,000 students with the title of Merit Scholar.

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Photograph included.