



News Release

For Immediate Release
September 25, 2015

Four NISD Students Named National Merit Semifinalists

Northwest High School senior Andrew Smith and Byron Nelson High School seniors Matthew Giuffrida, Ryan Wheeler and Brendan Woodcock have been selected among the approximately 16,000 semifinalists in the 61st annual National Merit Scholarship Program. They will have an opportunity to advance in the competition for some 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth approximately \$32 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.

Approximately 1.5 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools enter the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2014 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.

Northwest High School's Andrew Smith is a member of the football and track teams, National Honor Society, and serves as his class parliamentarian and on the student council. Byron Nelson High School senior Brendan Woodcock is a member of the National Honor Society and enrolled in the Academy of Biomedical Sciences. He's a member of the state recognized soccer team at Byron Nelson High School. Matthew Giuffrida, senior at Byron Nelson High School, is on the wrestling team, a member of the Spanish Honor Society and Technology Student Association where he has won fourth in the state competition and is an AP Scholar with Honor. Byron Nelson High School senior Ryan Wheeler is a member of the basketball team, National Honor Society and Young Men's Service League.

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 in April. These scholarship recipients will join more than 308,000 students with the title of Merit Scholar.

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Photographs included. (BNHS_NatMeritSemi left to right: Matthew Giuffrida, Ryan Wheeler, Brendan Woodcock) and Smith_NHS