



NORTH
KANSAS CITY
SCHOOLS
e s t . 1 9 1 3

MEDIA RELEASE

Media Release:

November 2, 2009

CONTACT:

Darlene Minx
Office of Communications
(816) 413-5048

2010 National Merit® Scholarship Program Recognizes 5 District Seniors as Commended Students

KANSAS CITY-NORTH ... The 2010 National Merit® Scholarship

Program has named 5 district students as **Commended Students**. Students include **Catherine Geehan** and **Amanda Winans**, seniors at North Kansas City High School; **Tara Baumgartner**, a senior at Oak Park High School; and **Joseph Simmons** and **Shahnawaz Yousaf**, seniors at Staley High School.

Geehan is the daughter of Doug and Mary Geehan, and Winans is the daughter of Ronald and Mindy Winans. Baumgartner is the daughter of Nick and Susan Baumgartner. Simmons is the son of Thomas and Anita Simmons, and Yousaf is the son of Mohammad Yousaf and Zahida Parveen. All live in Kansas City-North.

Of the more than 1.3 million American high school juniors taking the PSAT/NMSQT each year, only 50,000 – or just about four percent – of the students with the highest PSAT/NMSQT scores are recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program. Two-thirds – or approximately 34,000 of those students – are **Commended Students**, while the top third are named National Merit Semifinalists, with about half of those named Finalists later in the spring.



NORTH
KANSAS CITY
SCHOOLS

e s t . 1 9 1 3

MEDIA RELEASE

Page 2 of 2

According to the National Merit Scholarship program, Commended Students are named on the basis of a nationally applied Selection Index score that can vary from year to year and is below that of the scoring required for students to be named Semifinalists. Although Commended Students do not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, some do become candidates for special scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses.

To learn more about the National Merit Scholarship Program and its awards for high school students, contact your high school counselor or visit <http://www.nationalmerit.org> .

###