



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL

A Spirit of Excellence

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Benjamin Franklin High School Announces National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists

Benjamin Franklin High School is proud to announce the following twelve (12) seniors have been selected as National Merit Semifinalists in the 55th annual National Merit Scholarship Program:

Shamit Dua

Michael H. Friedlander

Christian C. Kay

Julian N. Lutz

Shannon M. Macika

Uday Nandipati

Brendan J. O'Byrne

David L. Phelps

Lauren E. Reeks

Ariana E. Rupp

Kelsie E. Stovall

Richard Z. Tang

National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Program. Scholarships awarded through the program are underwritten by NMSC's own funds and by approximately 500 business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, which represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state. The number of Semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors. To become a Finalist, a Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the school principal, and earn SAT scores that confirm the student's earlier qualifying test performance. The Semifinalist and a school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, which includes the student's self descriptive essay and information about the Semifinalist's participation and leadership in school and community activities.

Benjamin Franklin High School National Achievement Semifinalists



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Benjamin Franklin High School is proud to announce the following five (5) seniors have been selected as National Achievement Semifinalists in the 46th annual National Merit Scholarship Program:

Alexander H. Antrum
Evan A. Clark

Joshua M. Hunter
Danielle M. Newsome

Sarah M. Reynolds

The National Achievement Program, conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), is a privately financed academic competition that operates without government assistance. It was initiated in 1964 to recognize promising African American students throughout the nation and to provide scholarships to a substantial number of the most outstanding participants.

Semifinalists were designated within geographic regions and are the highest-scoring program entrants in the states that make up each region.

To advance to the Finalist level in the competition, Semifinalists must present a record of high academic performance throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the school principal, and earn SAT scores that confirm the PSAT/NMSQT performance. Also, the Semifinalist and a school official must complete a scholarship application in which they provide information about the student's participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, and educational goals.

For more information contact Ms. Janet DeGrazio or Ms. Trice Flair, College and Academic Counselors, at 504-286-2603 or visit our web site at www.benfranklinhighschool.org.

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Benjamin Franklin High School, located on the University of New Orleans campus, was founded in 1957, its stated mission, to promote excellence among New Orleans high school students. Franklin has been consistently ranked as a "top public high school in the nation" by *U.S. News and World Report*, *Newsweek*, and *Business Week* magazines and has received the highest School Performance Score in Louisiana, making it the #1 public school in the state again this year. Franklin was also recently named a 2009 National Blue Ribbon School.



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