



For Immediate Release

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Five North Hills Preparatory seniors named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Class of 2011 also brings in seven Commended Scholars and one National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar

IRVING, Texas (December 1) – Five seniors at Uplift Education’s North Hills Preparatory have been named as Semifinalists in the 2011 National Merit® Scholarship Program. These students are Reginald E. Du, Emily D. Le, Richard T. LeVan, Jarrod L. Milhorn, and Joachim J. Valdez.

High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). About 1.5 million students entered the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program. The Semifinalists are the highest-scoring entrants in each state and represent less than 1 percent of each state’s high school seniors. They now qualify to continue in the competition for national Merit Finalist status and Scholarships to be awarded in the spring of 2011.

There are 96 seniors in North Hills Prep’s senior class. In addition to the five students named as semifinalists, the class includes seven students who were named as Commended Scholars: Sherin John, Keith Liu, Erica Myoung, Steven Riley, Aurmon Sororian, Nigil Thaimuriyl and Zachary Walters. Commended Students are named on the basis of a nationally applied Selection Index score that is below the level required for participants to be named Semifinalists in their respective states. Although Commended Students do not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, some do become candidates for Special Scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses.

Additionally, senior Valentina DeFex has been selected as a 2010-2011 National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) Scholar. She was selected from a pool of more than 200,000 students who took the 2009 PSAT/NMSQT and identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino. The NHRP identifies nearly 5,000 outstanding Hispanic/Latino students each year. Though it does not provide a financial reward, the program sends a list of all recognized students to subscribing colleges and universities that are particularly interested in academically outstanding seniors of Hispanic/Latino heritage.

About Uplift Education:

Uplift Education is dedicated to operating schools that provide a quality education by raising and continually maintaining high expectations for students and staff. Uplift educates 4,600 students on seven campuses in Dallas, Arlington and Irving. Our schools provide a rigorous, multi-disciplinary curriculum, with an emphasis on college preparation. It is Uplift's goal to dramatically increase the number of students from all backgrounds who are provided a high quality public education – 100% of seniors graduate and are accepted to college. Uplift Education is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more information, visit <http://www.uplifteducation.org>.