

ADDITIONAL SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY STUDENT EARNS 2009 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn., June 1, 2009 – Saint Thomas Academy's Dean of Academics Dr. Celeste Heidelberger announced today that P. MacGregor of Saint Paul has earned a College-sponsored National Merit Scholarship to attend the University of Minnesota.

College-sponsored Merit Scholarship recipients are chosen by officials of each sponsor college from Finalists who have been accepted for admission and have informed NMSC that the sponsor college or university is their first choice. These awards are renewable for up to four years of undergraduate study. Merit Scholarship awards are supported by some 500 independent sponsors and by NMSC's own funds. Sponsor organizations include corporations and businesses, company foundations, professional associations, and colleges and universities.

2009 National Merit Scholarship Competition

This year's competition for National Merit Scholarships began in October 2007 when more than 1.5 million juniors in over 22,000 high schools took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. Last fall, the highest-scoring participants in each state, representing less than one percent of the state's seniors, were named Semifinalists on a state representational basis. Approximately 15,000 Semifinalists met the very high academic standards and other requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. By the conclusion of the 2009 program, about 8,200 Finalists will earn the "Merit Scholar" title and receive a total of nearly \$36 million in college scholarships.

NMSC, a not-for-profit corporation that operates without government assistance, was founded in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. The majority of scholarships offered each year are underwritten by approximately 500 independent corporate and college sponsors that share NMSC's goals of honoring scholastically talented youth and enhancing their educational opportunities.

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