



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, September 30, 2009 / Achievement Scholarship Semifinalists 2010

Forty-five seniors named semifinalists in 2010 National Achievement Scholarship competition

EVANSTON, IL – Forty-five Black American seniors in 30 South Carolina public high schools have been named [2010 semifinalists in the 46th annual National Achievement Scholarship](#) competition. They are among more than 1,600 students to achieve this honor nationwide.

Semifinalists have an opportunity to continue in the competition for approximately 800 scholarships worth over \$2.6 million to be awarded next spring. The National Achievement Program is conducted by the [National Merit Scholarship Corporation](#) and began in 1964 to recognize promising black students.

Charleston County's [Academic Magnet High School](#) in North Charleston had the largest number of South Carolina semifinalists with four. Three schools – Richland District Two's [Richland Northeast High](#) and [Blythewood High](#), plus the [Governor's School for Science and Mathematics](#) in Hartsville – had three semifinalists each. Six students from four private schools also qualified.

Approximately 1,300 semifinalists are expected to fulfill additional requirements and advance to the finalist level. All National Achievement Scholars will be selected from the finalist group on the basis of their abilities, accomplishments and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

More than 160,000 high school juniors from all parts of the United States entered the 2010 National Achievement Program when they took the 2008 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Semifinalists are designated within geographic regions and are the highest-scoring program entrants in the states that make up each region.

National Achievement Scholarships for 2010 will be supported by corporations, professional organizations, foundations and by National Merit's own funds. Two types of scholarships will be offered – one-time National Achievement \$2,500 scholarships, which will be presented on a regional representation basis, and about 100 Achievement Scholarships that are corporate-sponsored and may be renewable for up to four years of undergraduate study. Winners' names will be announced in early April.