



R-7 School District students named National Merit
Scholarship Corporation finalists

Four Lee's Summit R-7 School District seniors were recently named National Merit Scholarship Corporation finalists through the national program. Students recognized are Emily Griffith, Lee's Summit High School, and Mavis Brefo, Lindsey Jackson and Mark Spatz, Lee's Summit West High School

The students were named National Merit Scholarship Corporation semifinalists last fall.

Recognized students have the opportunity to continue in the competition for approximately 8,200 National Merit Scholarship Awards, worth close to \$33 million, to be offered this spring. There are approximately 16,000 semifinalists throughout the United States.

Emily Griffith is the daughter of Scott Griffith and Lynn Griffith. At Lee's Summit High School, she is a member of the Marching Band, Sounds of Summit chamber choir, Concert Choir and National Honor Society. She is also involved in the Kansas City Youth Symphony.

Mavis Brefo is the daughter of Stephen and Elena Brefo. At Lee's Summit West High School, she is on the varsity soccer team, is lead critic for CAPPIES theatre review program and is a member of Harmony Council, Titan Smart and National Honor Society.

Lindsey Jackson is the daughter of Brian and Carolyn Jackson. At LSWHS, she is involved in National Honor Society, the Freshman Mentor Program, Concert Chorale and Una Voce chamber choir.

Mark Spatz is the son of Jeff and Nancy Spatz. At LSWHS, he is involved in the FIRST Robotics Team, was in charge of the team's programming and electronics his sophomore and junior years and is technical manager this year.

Founded in 1955 to conduct the annual Merit Scholarship competition, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation is a privately financed, not-for-profit corporation that operates without government assistance. Scholarships awarded through the program are underwritten by nearly 500 independent sponsor organizations and institutions as well as with the corporation's own funds.

Nearly 1.4 million students throughout the United States entered the 2010 Merit Program as juniors by taking the preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which serves as an initial screen of program entrants. Semifinalists will be notified of their finalist standing in spring 2010.