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## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **Four BR Magnet High Students Named 2010 National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship Winners**

**Baton Rouge, La. – The names of 2,500 distinguished high school students who have won National Merit \$2,500 Scholarships** were announced today, May 5, by the **National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC)**. **Thirty-six Merit Scholar designees from Louisiana** were chosen from a talent pool of **more than 15,000 outstanding Finalists** in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program. **Of those, four are from the East Baton Rouge Parish School System – specifically from Baton Rouge Magnet High School.**

National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship winners are the Finalists in each state judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college studies. They were selected by a committee of college admissions officers and high school counselors. These Scholars may use their awards at any regionally accredited U.S. college or university. **Baton Rouge Magnet High School awardees include:**

- Christopher Cochran (pursuing Academia as a career) – National Merit Scholarship Corporation scholarship of \$2,500
- Dohyun Park (Dentistry) – National Merit Scholarship Corporation scholarship of \$2,500
- Marie Swarzenski (Engineering) – National Merit Scholarship Corporation scholarship of \$2,500
- Neal Wu (Computer Science/Finance) – National Merit Scholarship Corporation scholarship of \$2,500

All Finalists competed for these awards. To select scholarship winners, a committee of educators appraised a substantial amount of information submitted by both the Finalists and their high schools: the academic record, including difficulty level of subjects studied and grades earned; scores from two standardized tests; contributions and leadership in school and community activities; an essay written by the Finalist; and the recommendation written by a high school official. The number of winners named in each state is proportional to the state's percentage of the nation's high school graduating seniors.

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