

## **Fayette students rate among the best in nation**

Thirty Fayette County High School seniors have been named National Merit Semifinalists and are now eligible for a share in roughly \$34 million worth of college scholarships later this spring.

This is an honor awarded to less than 1 percent of students nationally – those who earn the top scores on the 2006 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Across the state of Kentucky, 215 semi-finalists were named – 30 of those were Fayette County Public Schools students. That means 14 percent of the state's merit scholars came from our local schools, although the district accounts for just 5 percent of the total student population in Kentucky!

The winning Fayette County students are, from Henry Clay High School: Saskia Boggs, Brian Burdine, Michael McGonigal, Elizabeth Riley, Drew Sugarman, Allan Vestal, and Katherine Yewell; from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School: Elizabeth Byers, Papa Chakravarthy, Sagar Chokshi, Jennifer Griffith, Kathleen Harrington, Nan Hu, Emily Lawler, Grace Li, Julia Li, Margaret Pan, David Parell, Richard Parsons, Javid Pour-Ghasemi, Aubrey Vaughan, Andrew Wang, Tian Yang, Victor Yang and Mehran Yusuf; from Lafayette High School: Daniel Bacon-Brown, Michael Brown, Daniel Jackson and Laura Menard; and from Tates Creek High School: Erik Patchell.

Across the country, there were roughly 16,000 Semifinalists named in the 53rd annual National Merit Scholarship Program. More than 1.4 million juniors in nearly 21,000 U.S. high schools entered the 2008 National Merit Program last fall.