



Moon Area School District

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MAHS Senior Named National Merit Scholarship Winner



Moon Area High School senior Ankit Medhekar of Moon Township has been chosen as a 2009 National Merit Scholarship Winner.

Medhekar is one of 8,200 distinguished high school seniors across the nation selected for the prestigious \$2,500 scholarship this year.

Medhekar is ranked No. 2 among the 283 members in the Class of 2009. He will attend the University of Rochester where he has been accepted into the Rochester Early Medical Scholars, an eight-year combined bachelor's degree and doctor of medicine program. The highly competitive program accepts only 10 students per year.

At Moon Area, Medhekar participates in Calculusolve, Pittsburgh Chemistry Olympics, Science Quiz Bowl, Hometown High Q and University of Pittsburgh Model United Nations competitions. He served as a Science Club treasurer and is a National Honor Society member, in addition to tennis team captain.

Outside of school, he enjoys karate and volunteers his time at Mercy and Allegheny hospitals and as a Carnegie Science Center exhibit presenter. Since 2007, he has spearheaded "Impact India," an initiative that collects medical equipment for underserved areas of India.

Medhekar and classmate Lin-Ling Lee, 18, were chosen as National Merit Scholarship Finalists in February and also were two of the 16,000 high school seniors named scholarship semifinalists in early September. This was the first time in recent history Moon Area had two students vying for the scholarship as semifinalists.

Seniors Laura Dupel, Siddarth Govindarajan, Erin Knepper, Katherine Topolski and Marissa Zane were honored as National Merit Commended Students.

The program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test – a test which serves as an initial screening of approximately 1.4 million entrants each year – and by meeting published program entry/participation requirements.

Semifinalists must score in the 99th percentile of the Preliminary SAT exam and account for one-third of the exam's 50,000 high-scorers.