



## **Moon Area School District**

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For Immediate Release  
Feb. 17, 2009

### **Two Moon Area Seniors Named National Merit Scholarship Finalists**

Moon Area High School seniors Ling-Ling Lee, 18, of Moon Township and Ankit Medhekar, 17, of Moon Township, have been chosen as 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program Finalists.

This is the first time in recent history that Moon Area has had two finalists in the same year.

Lee and Medhekar are ranked No. 1 and No. 2 among the 286 members in the Class of 2009 and the pair represents two of the 15,000 students selected for the nationwide honor. A total of 8,200 seniors will be announced as \$2,500 National Merit Scholarship winners this spring.

Throughout her high school career, Lee has been active in Science Quiz Bowl, Pennsylvania Math League, Hometown High Q, Pittsburgh Chemistry Olympics and University of Pittsburgh Model United Nations competitions. She serves as swim team captain and has been selected for Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Honors, District, Western Region and All-State Orchestra Festivals on violin.

Outside of school, she volunteers at UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital and is a University of Pittsburgh Medical Explorers member. For her senior project, she organized a field trip for students to visit Allegheny General Hospital to observe open-heart surgery.

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.

Beyond Moon Area, 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.

Lee and Medhekar were named two of the 16,000 high school seniors named scholarship semifinalists in early September and underwent an application process during the intervening months.

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 99<sup>th</sup> percentile of the Preliminary SAT exam and account for one-third of the exam's 50,000 high-scorers.