



## **Moon Area School District**

**8353 University Boulevard, Moon Township, Pennsylvania 15108**  
**www.moonarea.net**

**Megan Edwards, Public Relations Officer**  
**412-264-9440 ext.1130**  
**medwards@moonarea.net**

For Immediate Release  
September 19, 2011

### **MAHS Student Selected as Merit Scholarship Semifinalist**



Moon Area High School (MAHS) senior Savanna Starko has been selected as a 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalist. As one of 16,000 Semifinalists nationwide, Savanna will compete for some 8,300 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$34 million that will be offered next spring.

In 2012, nearly 1.5 million juniors in 22,000 high schools attempted to enter the program by taking the 2010 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Following this initial screening, the highest-scoring students in each state were selected as Semifinalists. They represent less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors.

Savanna, along with the other Semifinalists, had to fulfill several requirements in order to be selected: an outstanding academic record, an endorsement and recommendation by the high school principal, and SAT scores that reflect prior performance on the qualifying test. A scholarship application, which includes a student essay and information about involvement and leadership in school and community activities, was also required.

Students will be notified in February if they advance to the Finalist level. The program's corporation will select winners of the three types of 2012 National Merit Scholarship from this group. These winners will be announced beginning in April and ending in July. This year marks the program's 57<sup>th</sup> year.

###