

**Albemarle County Public Schools
School Board Commendations
March 12, 2009**

1. Twenty Albemarle County high school students have been selected as finalists in the 2009 National Merit® Scholarship program. This is the largest number of National Merit® finalists in Albemarle County Public Schools' history.

The recipients are as follows:

Nine Albemarle High school students received the distinction: **John F. Elder, Roger Fan, Cameron K. Hill, Valentina S. Moshnikova, Amy L. Pugh, Ariel L. Schwartz, Caitlyn M. Suhler, Duncan C. Townsend, and Matthew E. Truwit.**

Western Albemarle High School produced seven finalists: **Caroline Barnes, Joshua Dugan, Elizabeth Hexter, Joanna Moody, Samantha Rivkin, Wesley Swank, and Whitney Wenger.**

Katherine Downs, Patricia Fernandez, Stephen Lander, and Timothy Pianta were the four students from Monticello High School to each win a *Certificate of Merit* for the competition and progress to the finals for college scholarship opportunities.

The students were selected for this prestigious honor out of nearly 1.5 million high school students in the United States who take the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test) and NMSQT® (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) examinations each fall. Congratulations to these students for this outstanding academic achievement.

2. After winning their school-level spelling bees, students progressed to the Albemarle County Public Schools Division spelling bee, held on February 9, 2009. **Luc Bailey**, a sixth-grade student at Jack Jouett, won the division bee, with the winning word, **odyssey!** **Angus Dawson**, a fifth-grade student at Yancey Elementary School, was the runner up. Both students advanced to the regional spelling bee that was held at Monticello High School on March 7, 2009. Congratulations to Luc and Angus.
3. Burley Middle School student **Jeannie Kim** submitted the winning design for the Virginia Art Education Association's Flag contest. Ms. Kim competed against hundreds of applicants in grades K-12. Her flag design will represent the state of Virginia for the entire month of March in Washington, DC, where she will be recognized at a ceremony for her first-place design.
4. Western Albemarle High School student, **Kate Wiggans** was named first runner-up at the 2009 Regional Shakespeare Competition in Staunton, VA held on February 13, 2009. She performed a monologue from Romeo and Juliet. Annually, 16,000 students participate in this curriculum-based program designed to help high school students develop their communications skills and appreciation of language and literature.
5. Western Albemarle High School Student, **Rachel Lane**, created the winning design for the ACPS Fine Arts Festival Poster for the 2007-08 school year. This year's winning poster art was created by **Kyra Ventura** of Crozet Elementary. Artwork selection rotates each year, so next year the design will be selected from middle school art work.

6. Congratulations to **Gwedette Crummie**, Assistant Principal of Baker-Butler Elementary School, on her nomination this past fall for the Virginia "Outstanding Mentor Award" for her many efforts to increase mentoring awareness, participation in the mentoring program, and mentoring resources.
7. The Board would like to commend **Nancy Markos** and **Pam Walker** for their publication, "Teaching the Nuts and Bolts of Physical Education, Second Edition." This edition, published in 2008, contains the components for teaching and assessing locomotor and manipulative skills, and serves as a great reference for K-5 physical education teachers. Ms. Markos is the P.E. teacher at Broadus Wood Elementary, and Ms. Walker is a retired Red Hill Elementary School P.E. teacher.
8. Congratulations to **Jeremy Malm**, Monticello High School freshman, for the publication of his article, "This Man Really Can Move Mountains: A Tribute to Bob Allen," in the 2008 Issue of Earth Scientist magazine by The University of Oklahoma. Jeremy's article describes the incredible journey he made with Bob Allen, a well-known Oklahoma geologist, and the exciting world of fossils and rocks.