



Commended Students in the 2009 National Merit® Scholarship Program SAT Scores soar at Bishop Garcia Diego High School



SANTA BARBARA, CALIF. - September 29, 2008 - Jennifer Ortiz and Sally Stevenson, senior class students at Bishop Garcia Diego High School, are named a Commended Student in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program. Fr. Tom Elewaut, C.J., principal made the announcement today. A Letter of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which conducts the program, will be presented to Jennifer and Sally at the annual senior awards assembly next June.

Being recognized for their exceptional academic promise are a total of 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation. Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than one million students who entered the 2009 competition by taking the 2007 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Additionally, Bishop Garcia Diego High School released its SAT scores for the class of 2008. Bishop Garcia Diego High School tested two-thirds of its graduates who achieved higher average scores over countywide public schools. On average, Bishop students achieved a score of 1748 on the SAT while the State of California average is 1512 and the national average is 1511. 100% of the Bishop Garcia Diego High School Class of 2008 was accepted to college/university studies.

Regarding Jennifer Ortiz and Sally Stevenson, an NMSC spokesperson commented, "Our nation's pursuit of educational excellence can be furthered by publicly honoring these outstanding students and by acknowledging the important role schools play in fostering their development. We hope that this recognition will contribute to their educational opportunities and encourage all students to strive to realize their potential."

