



PRESS RELEASE – ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
For immediate release  
Information: Superintendent's Office (714) 628-4087

## **OUSD Students Named National Merit Semifinalists**

ORANGE, Calif., September 13, 2012 – Orange Unified School District is proud to announce six National Merit semifinalists for 2012-2013. These students scored in the top 1% of students who take the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) nationwide.

According to the National Merit Scholarship website, approximately 16,000 of the 50,000 high scoring students were notified in early September that they qualified as Semifinalists. Recognized students are the highest scoring from each state.

Semifinalists advance to Finalist standing in the competition by meeting high academic standards and all other National Merit Scholarship Competition requirements. These requirements include: plans to enroll as a full-time college student in the fall of 2013, U.S. citizenship or lawful permanent resident status, endorsement by their high school principal, and a record of consistently high academic performance throughout high school.

### OUSD National Merit Scholarship Competition Semifinalists:

Canyon High: Tiana T. Bagdikian, Ellen M. Hong, Jane D. Lu  
El Modena High: Vivien H. Ngo, Thaibao Q. Phan  
Villa Park High: Scott Chow

In February, approximately 15,000 Semifinalists will be notified by mail if they have advanced to Finalist standing.

More information about the National Merit Scholarship Program is available at <http://www.nationalmerit.org/>.

*The Orange Unified School District is located at 1401 N. Handy Street, Orange, CA*

# # #