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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Laguna Beach Honors High School Students Take Top Honors**

Of the one million students who took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, 16,000 were designated as semi-finalists. These scholastically talented students have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,000 Merit Scholarship awards worth \$32 million. The scholarship amounts will be announced this spring. Two Laguna Beach High School students semi-finalists are Joy Henderson and Blakely Burns.

Of the one million students who took the SAT Qualifying Test, 34,000 were designated as commended. Commended students are recognized for their exceptional academic promise demonstrated by their outstanding performance on this test. LBHS commended students are Billy O'Hare, Courtney Lauwereins, Dina Mahmood, Correy Miller, and Will Sherman.

Stephanie Morgan was selected by the College Board for special recognition as a "Scholar" in the National Hispanic Recognition Program. This honor is for students who designate themselves as Hispanic and achieve a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Stephanie was selected as one of 3,400 students of the 140,000 students who took the 2003 PSAT/NMSQT/PAA.

Nancy Blade, LBHS Principal, expresses her admiration for these students, "I am extremely proud of our students who have distinguished themselves as top scholars in the nation. They have worked very hard and I am very happy to see them recognized for their gifts and their commitment to learning."