

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Richardson Independent School District
Richardson, Texas

Date: April 3, 2006

Department: Communications

Submitted by: Jeanne Guerra, Director of Communications

Briefing Date(s):

N/A

Study Session

N/A

INFORMATION ITEM

TOPIC: Commendations – Recognition of Board Members, the Community, Staff, Schools and Students

Community

Bill Moltner, Vice Chairman Community Division of the Richardson Chamber of Commerce and Vice President Investor Relations for Lennox International Inc. will present a Chamber resolution regarding RISD's called 2006 bond referendum.

RISD resident **Linda Tyson** recently concluded her participation with the district's Bi-racial committee after years of service. Through her time and talent, Linda has been a crucial component to the committee's continued effectiveness. The RISD community sincerely thanks her for the hundreds of hours she has volunteered to the district.

Students

The following students have been named *2006 National Merit Finalists*; one of the most prestigious academic honors available to high school students in the United States. As National Merit Finalists, these students represent the top one percent of academic achievers in the country, and are eligible to receive National Merit Scholarships.

Osman Ahmed, Pearce High School; Leila Alderman, Lake Highlands High School; Andrew Brookshire, Pearce High School; Alexander Frolov, Richardson High School; Judy Huang, Berkner High School; Mark Kao, Pearce High School; Andrew Kreighbaum, Lake Highlands High School; Alexander Lue, Berkner High School; Reese Mathieu IV, Pearce High School; Katherine Noble, Pearce High School; Jefferson Timmins, Lake Highlands High School; William Vijverberg, Berkner High School; Kathryn Wingate, Richardson High School; and Samuel Wu, Berkner High School.

Richardson High School students **Hannah Jones** and **Nicholas Luchsinger** earned the recognition of *National Merit Semi-Finalists*.

Pearce High School student **Livia Kessler** has been named a National Achievement Scholarship Program semi-finalist for the 2005-06 school year.

In advancing to the semi-finalist level, she has earned recognition as being among the top African-American academic performers in the United States.

Three RISD students have been recognized by the *National Hispanic Recognition Program* for the 2005-06 academic year.

This honor places them in the top three percent academically among Hispanic high school students in the nation.

Joseph DeCosta, Lake Highlands High School; Clayton Juarez, Richardson High School and Eduardo Olazaran, Pearce High School.

The following students qualified to compete at the highest level of *Academic Decathlon* competition in Texas, the state meet.

They competed in up to 10 academic events including Interview, Speech, Essay, Art, Mathematics, Music, Economics, Language & Literature, Social Science and Super Quiz.

From **Pearce High School: Andy Brookshire, Meredith Corley, Grant Gormley, Mark Kao, William Krause, Steven Loh, Parker Staats, Allen Walton and Michael Wang.** The Pearce team finished eighth in the state.

From **Richardson High School: Ryan Derenbecker, Casey Ernsberger, Alex Frolov, Mary Girsch, Melissa Jacobs, Isabelle Jargowsky, Jerry Jiang, Hannah Jones and Yifei Zheng.**

From **Berkner High School: Kathleen Chase, Bryse Davis, Amy Fulbright, Priya Ghelani, Alexander Lue, Jimmy McCarthy, Crystal Smith, Rochelle Trachier and Albert Young.**

Three **Berkner High School** students, **Ben Kao, Trung La and Tammy Lee** earned awards in the *Japanese Teachers Association of Texas Japanese New Years Card Contest and the Japanese Speech Contest.*

The **Berkner High School Orchestra** was selected as the *2nd Place 2005 Texas Music Educators Association High School String Honor Orchestra.* This honor is bestowed upon a single high school orchestra each year after competitive audition against the best orchestras from around Texas.

Members include:

Max Bathman, Wai Keung Cheng, Alyssa Concha, Ashley Corey, Casey Hodges, Judy Huang, James Kershaw, Jonathan Kershaw, Henry Law, Samuel Lee, Katherine Liang, Christine Lin, Jose Machuca, John Ngo, Amy Parsonault, Amanda Su, Audrey Su, Bonny Su, James Wang, Ashley Witherspoon, Samuel Wu, Peter Yeh, Wen-Cheng Yuan, Luyi Zheng, Magaret Aiuvalasit, Eugene Baek, Douglas Beach, Jessica Co, Laura Crinella, Carleigh Crockett, James Davis, Taylor Foster, Winnie Guan, Tokha Hoang, Natalie Holmes, Chen Hsia Huang, Deborah Kang, John Kim, Jessica Kwon, Annie lam, Jason Ma, Justin Ma, Bianca Park, Jae Park, MaiAnh Pham, Richard Poon, Jonathan Shen, Erika Sherhart, Tam Ta and James Lloyd Wilson.

They are directed by **Craig Needham.**