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NEWS RELEASE

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HCHS Students Named National Merit Scholars

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Houston County High School seniors Sarah Freeman and Thomas Pressey have been named National Merit Scholars. More than 2,900 winners of National Merit Scholarships financed by U.S. colleges and universities were announced by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Sarah received the National Merit Emory University Scholarship. Sarah plans to attend Emory University as a Liberal Arts scholar and major in English. Thomas received the National Merit Georgia Institute of Technology Scholarship. Thomas's probable career field is engineering.

Officials of each sponsor college selected their scholarship winners from among Finalists in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program who plan to attend their institution. These awards provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship. Another group of Scholars will be announced in July, bringing the total number of college-sponsored Merit Scholarship recipients in the 2011 competition to approximately 4,800.

College-sponsored Merit Scholars are members of a distinguished group of about 8,300 high school seniors who will receive National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$35 million. To compete for Merit Scholarship awards, Semifinalists had to advance to the Finalist level of the competition by fulfilling additional requirements. Each Semifinalist submitted a scholarship application that included presenting an outstanding academic record, being endorsed and recommended by a school official, and earning SAT scores that confirmed the qualifying test performance. The Semifinalist also wrote an essay and provided information about extracurricular activities, awards and leadership positions. From the Semifinalist group, some 15,000 met requirements for Finalist standing, and more than half of the Finalists will be Merit Scholarship winners in 2011.

Houston County High School is located at 920 Highway 96 in Warner Robins. Sherri Freeman serves as principal. For more information, contact Freeman at 478-929-7877 or visit the Web site www.nationalmerit.org.

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