

NEWS RELEASE



Eanes Independent School District
Claudia McWhorter, Communications Director
(512) 732-9002
cmcwhorter@eanesisd.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2011

WESTLAKE HS SENIOR NAMED PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR *Announcement marks fourth scholar in four years for Westlake HS*

AUSTIN, Texas – For the fourth consecutive year, a Westlake senior has been chosen as a U.S. Presidential Scholar. Fatima Alvi, a senior at Westlake High School in the Eanes Independent School District, has been selected as one of 121 Presidential Scholars in Academics for the 2011 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. Alvi is the only Presidential Scholar from the Austin area and one of only three academic Presidential Scholars in Texas.

The daughter of Nadeem and Shahin Alvi, Fatima is a National Merit Finalist and actively involved in the Model UN, Latin Club and serves as vice president of the National Honor Society. She has a black belt in Taekwondo and is interning with an Austin cardiologist. Last summer, Alvi was selected to attend the Welch Summer Scholars Program and worked at The University of Texas at Austin performing research in the field of analytical chemistry, studying the fragmentation patterns of resveratrol and polydatin. She has also been working to create a non-profit card company, selling products crafted in a joint initiative by Jewish and Arab women living in Israel. Alvi will attend Rice University in the fall.

In addition, AP Chemistry teacher Denise DeMartino received a Presidential Scholars Teacher Recognition Award from the Department of Education. She was selected because Alvi identified Ms. DeMartino as being her most influential teacher.

The Presidential Scholar program was established in 1964, by executive order of the President, to recognize and honor some of the nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. The selection is based on superior achievements, leadership qualities, personal character, and involvement in community and school activities. Scholars were chosen by a panel of distinguished educators after a review of student essays, self-assessments, descriptions of activities, school recommendations and transcripts.

Alvi and DeMartino have been invited to Washington, D.C. for several days in June to receive the Presidential Scholar medallion at a recognition ceremony.

The Eanes Independent School District spans 31.2 square miles of scenic Texas Hill Country in Travis County and serves approximately 7,700 students. Schools in Eanes ISD are Westlake High School, Hill Country Middle School, West Ridge Middle School, Barton Creek Elementary, Bridge Point Elementary, Cedar Creek Elementary, Eanes Elementary, Forest Trail Elementary and Valley View Elementary. In 2010, all nine campuses and the District were named Exemplary by the Texas Education Agency for the second consecutive year.

###