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LOCAL STUDENT NAMED SEMIFINALIST IN 2020 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

High School student amongst top 1% of students in the nation

SAN ANTONIO — Gabriella Hernandez, a Frank L. Madla Early College High School senior, was named a semifinalist today by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). This distinction was awarded to just 1% of U.S. high school seniors.

Over 1.5 million juniors from about 21,000 high schools across the country entered the National Merit Scholarship program by taking the PSAT/NMSQT and meeting other program requirements. As a semifinalist, Hernandez will have an opportunity to be considered for a Merit Scholarship Award and National Merit Title – NMSC will announce distinctions in the Spring.

“I feel lucky to be a voice for my peers in my community who feel that they cannot be at the top. I am an example of what is possible,” said Hernandez.

Hernandez is a diligent student who holds both a 3.99 high school GPA and a 4.0 College GPA. She enjoys reading varying types content from sci-fi to traditional text books and is a notable leader of her campus, serving as the National Honor Society Secretary.

Frank L. Madla Early College High School, an ‘A’ rated campus, is operated through a partnership between New Frontiers Public Schools and Alamo Colleges District - Palo Alto College. Their most recent graduating class collectively secured over 4 million dollars in college scholarships and 125 college acceptances.

“We encourage our students to walk in their greatness each day,” Frank L. Madla Early College High School Principal Jeffrey Flores said. “They are challenged to achieve and realize their full potential.”

Hernandez has attended New Frontiers Public Schools since the 2nd grade. The tuition-free, local network of schools is in its 21st year of operation serving the south San Antonio community. Their college immersion model aims to provide ‘students in every grade a collegiate experience’. The district also serves grades K-8 at the Frank L. Madla Accelerated Collegiate Academy.

“We are proud of Gabriella for this incredible recognition,” New Frontiers Public Schools CEO Alfredo Segura Jr. said. “She rightfully takes her place with the most elite student group in the country. Gabriella, like her Frank L Madla Early College High School peers is trailblazing down our path to and through college.”

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About the National Merit Scholarship Corporation

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by approximately 400 business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

About New Frontiers Public Schools

New Frontiers Public Schools is a local, community-based, free public charter school district serving children in kindergarten through high school on the south side of San Antonio since 1998. The 'B' rated district operates the Frank L. Madla Accelerated Collegiate Academy and the Frank L. Madla Early College High School. Their schools operate under a college immersion model where all students in every grade receive a collegiate experience. For information on New Frontiers Public Schools, visit www.newfrontierspublicschools.org.

About Early College High Schools

Early College High Schools are innovative high schools that allow students least likely to attend college an opportunity to earn a high school diploma and up to 60 college credit hours. Under the authority of Texas Education Code (TEC) §29.908(b) and Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §102.1091, the TEA has developed a designation process for ECHS. The designation process ensures that districts and colleges operating ECHS campuses maintain the integrity of the model, which was researched and designed to target and serve students who would not otherwise consider attending college.