Country Day Seniors Named Semifinalists in Presidential Scholars Program

May 5, 2008—DETROIT—Timothy H. Liu and Kunal S. Mehta, graduating seniors at Detroit Country Day School have been named two of approximately 560 semifinalists in the 2008 Presidential Scholars Program. The semifinalists were selected from more than 3,000 candidates on the basis of superior achievements, leadership qualities, personal character, and involvement in community and school activities.

Final selection of the Scholars will be made by the Commission on Presidential Scholars, a group of eminent citizens appointed by the President, and will be announced in May. The Commission will select one young man and one young woman from each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. students living abroad; up to 20 students representing the visual, literary and performing arts; and 15 students at-large.

Scholars will be invited to Washington, D.C., for several days in the second half of June to receive the Presidential Scholars medallion at a recognition ceremony and to participate in various activities and events held in their honor.

The 513 semifinalists in the program’s academic component were initially selected as candidates for their exceptional performance on either the College Board SAT or the ACT Assessment (Timothy earned a perfect score on the ACT and Kunal earned a perfect score on the SAT). For the arts component of the program, 60 additional semifinalists were nominated by the National Foundation for Advancement of the Arts, which annually conducts a competitive, national talent search of over 6,500 young artists in a wide range of disciplines.

Semifinalists were chosen by a panel of distinguished educators after a review of students’ essays, self-assessments, descriptions of activities, school recommendations, and school transcripts.

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NOTE TO NEWS EDITORS: Scholars will be announced in May. News media only may call the Department of Education’s Office of Public Affairs at 202.401.1579 or visit http://www.ed.gov/programs/psp/awards.html [case sensitive], and click on “2008 Semifinalists” for a list of all semifinalists. For more information about the student(s), contact the student(s) directly.