



Frank Margello, Principal  
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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Badin's Begovich and Woodward named National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists

Michael Begovich(right) and Jake Woodward(left), seniors at Badin High School, have been named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corp.

They are two of some 16,000 semifinalists in the 55<sup>th</sup> annual National Merit Scholarship program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to qualify for National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$36 million that will be offered in the spring.

"These are two outstanding students, as their test performance shows," said Frank Margello, principal at Badin High School. "They are serious about their academics, which is what school is all about. We're very proud of their efforts."

Begovich is the son of Joseph and Pamela Begovich of West Chester and a graduate of St. Julie Billiard School.

Woodward is the son of Robert and Brenda Woodward of Fairfield and a graduate of Sacred Heart School.

Begovich was pleased by the accomplishment, saying he was "hoping for it, but I wasn't sure I was going to get it."

He hasn't narrowed his list of potential colleges down yet as he plans to major in something science- or engineering-related.

Woodward plans to use a history major as a pre-law degree. He is zeroing in on Ohio State for his undergraduate work, with an eye to Notre Dame or the University of Cincinnati for law school.

Both young men were members of the Badin junior varsity JETS team – the Junior Engineering Technical Society competition squad – that captured the state and national championships last year.

“Michael and Jake tested very well as they entered Badin High School, have done very well in school, and now are testing well as they prepare to move beyond Badin,” said Badin Principal Frank Margello. “They have outstanding futures ahead of them.”

Woodward said he has truly enjoyed his experience at Badin.

“You’re in school with your friends, and the teachers make it a lot of fun,” he said. “It’s hard, but it’s very enjoyable.”

More than 1.5 million juniors in about 22,000 high schools nationally entered the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2008 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of semifinalists represents less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors.

The National Merit Scholarship finalists will be named in the spring. Some 90 percent of the semifinalists become finalists, and about 8,200 National Merit Scholarships are awarded.

The National Merit Scholarship Corp. was organized in 1955.

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