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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **TWO KEITH STUDENTS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS**

**ROCKFORD, IL** – Keith Country Day School students Navid Bahmanyar and Christofer Hamilton rank among the top one percent of all high school seniors in the United States according to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

This week, the NMSC announced the names of this year's National Merit Scholar Finalists, which included Bahmanyar and Hamilton.

"Both Navid and Christofer are standout students," said Dr. Ron Lee, Head of Middle and Upper School at Keith. "To be among the top one percent in the entire country is a remarkable accomplishment. We are very proud of both boys."

Bahmanyar and Hamilton qualified for the honor by taking the Preliminary SAT (PSAT)/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.3 million entrants each year.

A regular on the Head of School's High Honors with Distinction list, Bahmanyar is a two-time AP Scholar and this year was named an Illinois State Scholar. In addition to his academic successes, Bahmanyar is very active in extra-curriculars. He was a member of both the tennis and soccer teams, helps tutor students at the Northwest Community Center once a week and is a member of Tri-M (music honor society).

Active in academics, fine arts and philanthropy, Hamilton is also an exceptionally well-rounded student. This year, he is a leader on the school's Scholastic Bowl team, performs in the jazz band and is a member of Tri-M (music honor society). Hamilton is also a key member of the WYSE (World Youth in Science and Engineering) and Certamen (Latin quiz bowl) teams. In December, he earned an early acceptance to Yale University.

By earning finalist status, next month Bahmanyar and Hamilton will have the opportunity to compete for more than 8,000 merit and corporate scholarships awards. All awards are based on each finalists' abilities, skills, and accomplishments, academic record, information about the school's curricula and grading system, two sets of test scores, the school official's written recommendation, information about the student's activities and leadership, and the finalist's own essay.

Keith Country Day School is an independent, nonsectarian, college-preparatory school founded by Belle Emerson Keith in 1916. Located on a 15-acre campus overlooking the Rock River, Keith serves students from age three through grade 12 from the Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin area. The school is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools and fully-accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States and the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. More information about Keith School is available at [Keithschool.com](http://Keithschool.com)

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