

**For Immediate Release**

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## Media Release

### **Ten CCSD students earn National Merit college-sponsored scholarships in 2024**

#### Office of Communications

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**Charleston, SC** – The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced over 2,900 winners of National Merit Scholarships financed by U.S. colleges and universities this week. The list includes 10 students from a total of three Charleston County School District (CCSD) schools.

#### **Academic Magnet High School**

Elizabeth S. Compton - National Merit University of Tennessee Scholarship

Campbell N. Leshner – National Merit Davidson College Scholarship

Elizabeth Clifton Manuel – National Merit Washington and Lee University Scholarship

John K. McQueen – National Merit University of South Carolina Scholarship

Jesse Ross - National Merit Clemson University Scholarship

#### **Lucy Beckham High School**

Kathryn C. Bennett – National Merit University of Central Florida Scholarship

Elizabeth F. Goldberg – National Merit University of South Carolina Scholarship

#### **Wando High School**

Colton P. Keith - National Merit Clemson University Scholarship

James E. Perkins – National Merit University of South Carolina Scholarship

Viona Z. Su – National Merit University of South Carolina Scholarship

A total of 17 CCSD students have now received scholarships in the 69<sup>th</sup> annual National Merit Scholarship program. [Academic Magnet led the state with three corporate-sponsored winners in April](#) and four graduating seniors from a combined three CCSD schools earned [\\$2,500 scholarships last month](#).

“We are all so proud of this group of National Merit Scholarship winners from Academic Magnet,” said Academic Magnet’s principal, Jacob Perlmutter. “It is so rewarding for our whole faculty to see academically gifted students blossom into wonderful young adults.”

Officials of each sponsor college selected their scholarship recipients from among the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program finalists who plan to

attend their institution. These awards provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship.

This year, 149 higher education institutions are underwriting Merit Scholarship awards through the National Merit Scholarship Program. Sponsor colleges and universities include 77 private and 72 public institutions located in 42 states and the District of Columbia.

"We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Kathryn and Elizabeth for their exceptional achievement," added Beckham's principal, Anna Dassing. "These exemplary young women epitomize the essence of hard work and dedication to academic pursuits. We are confident that they will continue to excel and attain all their aspirations."

College-sponsored Merit Scholarship winners announced this month are a part of the distinguished group of more than 6,700 high school seniors who will receive National Merit Scholarships for college undergraduate study worth nearly \$26 million.

"We are so proud of all of our students who won National Merit Scholarships," explained Chas Coker, Wando's principal. "This is a huge testament to their dedication and hard work through their high school career. We cannot wait to see what they accomplish next as we know this is only the beginning. We are proud to call them Warriors."

High school juniors entered the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program when they took the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants.

Once students were selected as semifinalists, they fulfilled requirements to become finalists. They submitted a detailed scholarship application, which included writing an essay and providing information about extracurricular activities, awards, and leadership positions. Semifinalists also had to have an outstanding academic record, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, and earn SAT® scores that confirmed the qualifying test performance. From the semifinalist group, over 15,000 students met finalist requirements.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 to conduct the National Merit Scholarship Program. The majority of National Merit Scholarships offered each year are underwritten by some 320 independent corporate and college sponsors that support NMSC's efforts to honor the nation's scholastically talented youth and encourage academic excellence at all levels of education.

For more information, contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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### **About the Charleston County School District**

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all of its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 50,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools. Options include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military.