

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Seven CCSD students earn National Merit \$2,500 Scholarships

Office of Communications

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Charleston, SC – The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) released the names of National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship winners for the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program, and the following seven Charleston County School District (CCSD) students are on the list:

Academic Magnet High School

Spence D. Cox
Summer D. DeSouza
Angela Mei
Moyu C. Yamaguchi

Lucy Beckham High School

Mila K. Ganaway
Peyton C. Matheson

Wando High School

Inna Voloshchuk

Ganaway and Matheson are the first-ever National Merit Scholarship winners at Lucy Beckham.

“We are very proud of Mila and Peyton's exemplary performance and commitment to excellence in all they do,” said Beckham's principal, Anna Dassing. “They have worked very hard to earn this prestigious award and they are modeling the way for generations to come.”

Nine total CCSD students have earned scholarships in this 68th annual program so far. [Two Academic Magnet student picked up corporate-sponsored scholarships last month](#), and the Raptors led the state with four \$2,500 scholarship winners this year.

“We are so proud of these four AMHS students,” explained Academic Magnet Principal Jacob Perlmutter. “This is just the beginning of the great things they will accomplish in their lives. We look forward to seeing what they do in college and beyond.”

Thirty-five distinguished high school seniors from South Carolina are receiving the \$2,500 scholarship in 2023. According to NMSC, these winners are the finalists in each state that are judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

“Inna has consistently demonstrated tremendous academic and personal qualities that will lead her to great success in college and beyond,” said Wando’s interim principal, Kim Wilson. “Inna is a young person of character and integrity, driven to break down barriers that make it difficult for young women and others to succeed. Inna is one of the brightest rising stars of the Class of 2023.”

NMSC finances most of these single-payment National Merit \$2500 Scholarships. Corporations and company foundations that sponsor awards through NMSC also help underwrite these scholarships with grants they provide in lieu of paying administrative fees. Scholars may use their awards at any regionally accredited U.S. college or university.

High school juniors entered this year’s National Merit Scholarship Program when they took the 2021 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.

By the conclusion of the 2023 competition, about 7,140 Finalists will receive National Merit Scholarships totaling nearly \$28 million.

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 340 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 49,000 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.