

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

35 CCSD Students Named 2018 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Office of Strategy and
Communications

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Charleston, SC — Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce 35 students from a total of three CCSD high schools are Semifinalists for the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program; National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NSMC) released the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists today. CCSD had 22 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists in 2017.

These high school seniors now have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth a total of about \$32 million that will be offered this spring.

Congratulations to the following 2018 Semifinalists:

Academic Magnet

Alexander P. Adragna
Evelyn Z. Bi
Jasper J. Bishop
Jackson N. Bracy
Fanny Cheung
Sophie M. Crosby
Lauren K. DeMarco
Gregg M. Gardner
Ethan A. Kautz
Mary F. Kline
Trystan W. Knowles
Ashwin D. Koka
Zachary A. Kronsberg
Emma P. Ladd
David W. Martin
Hannah R. Martin
Sophie J. Myrick
Earl W. Navarro
Michael J. Pi
Alexander J. Puckhaber

Isaac A. Smith
John R. Staubes
Maximilian von Asten
Kevin T. Walsh
Jenny J. Yao
Adam H. Ziff

Charleston County School of the Arts

F. McCormick Emge
Walker S. Menkus

Wando High School

Andrew T. Forrester
Andrew D. Inman
Annabella C. Leone
Jonathan H. McKinney
Samuel Murk Caya
Logan S. Teder
Caitlyn R. Van de Meulebroecke

About 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state. The number of Semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

To become a Finalist, the Semifinalist and his or her high school must submit a detailed scholarship application, in which they provide information about the Semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. A Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.

2018 National Merit Scholarship finalists (expected be around 15,000) will be contacted by NSMC in February, and winners will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 schools and specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.