

**For Immediate Release**

April 18, 2018

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# Media Release

## **Several CCSD Students Receive National Merit Corporate-Sponsored Scholarships**

Office of Strategy and  
Communications

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**Charleston, SC** – Seven Charleston County School District (CCSD) scholars are receiving prestigious corporate-sponsored National Merit Scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). They are part of the first group of winners in the 63<sup>rd</sup> annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

The NMSC announced today approximately 1,000 high school seniors (including 16 from South Carolina) earned scholarships financed by 200 corporations, company foundations, and other business organizations. Most of the awards are renewable for up to four years of college undergraduate study and provide annual stipends from \$500 to \$10,000 annually, while some provide a single payment ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

The following CCSD students received 2018 corporate-sponsored National Merit Scholarships:

### **Academic Magnet High School (AMHS)**

Evelyn Bi, National Merit Citizen Watch Scholarship

Gregg Gardner, National Merit Boeing Scholarship

Alexander Puckhaber, National Merit South Carolina Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center Scholarship

Jenny Yao, National Merit South Carolina Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center Scholarship

### **Charleston County School of the Arts (SOA)**

Findley McCormick Emge, National Merit South Carolina Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center Scholarship

### **Wando High School (WHS)**

Annabelle Leone, National Merit South Carolina Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center Scholarship

Logan Teder, National Merit CACI Scholarship

"We congratulate these outstanding Wando students on these esteemed scholarship awards," said WHS Principal Dr. Sherry Eppelsheimer. "Their dedication and hard work throughout their high school career deserves this special recognition. We applaud Annabelle Leone and Logan Teder."

According to the NMSC, more than 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2018 National Merit Scholarship competition when they took the 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. In September 2017, approximately 16,000 semifinalists were named on a state-representational basis in numbers proportional to each state's percentage of the national total of graduating high school seniors. Semifinalists were the highest-scoring program entrants in each state and represented less than one percent of the nation's seniors.

"Academic Magnet High School is very proud of its long-standing tradition of exemplary student performance on the National Merit Qualifying Test," stated AMHS Principal Catherine Spencer. "The four scholarship winners represent some of our best and brightest who not only have had extraordinary success at AMHS, but whose college and career choices place them among the most promising of future leaders within their chosen fields and their communities."

To compete for Merit Scholarship awards, semifinalists first had to advance to the next round by fulfilling additional requirements. Each semifinalist was asked to submit 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, some 15,000 students met finalist requirements.

"McCormick is a gifted musician, invested community member, and outstanding student," explained SOA Principal, Dr. Shannon Cook. "School of the Arts is proud to celebrate his scholastic achievement and national recognition."

By the conclusion of the 2018 competition, about 7,500 Finalists will have been selected to receive National Merit Scholarships totaling over \$31 million. Winners are finalists who have, according to evaluators, the strongest combination of academic skills and achievements, extracurricular accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

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 410 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 about the CCSD students who earned 2018 corporate-sponsored National Merit Scholarship award, contact the Office of Strategy and Communications at (843) 937-6583.

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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.