

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Last Round of 2018 NMSC Winners Includes CCSD Scholar

Office of Strategy and
Communications

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Charleston, SC –The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) made four separate announcements regarding National Merit Scholarship winners in 2018. Charleston County School District (CCSD) was represented in each wave, including the final list released this week, as Academic Magnet High School's (AMHS) Emma Ladd was named a college-sponsored Merit Scholarship winner; she will attend the University of South Carolina.

Ladd's selection brings the final total of CCSD students to earn money from NMSC in 2018 to 22. Last month, seven CCSD students were also named NMSC [college-sponsored winners](#). In May, seven more scholars from CCSD were named [National Merit \\$2,500 Scholarship](#) winners. Back in April, seven students from the District [earned](#) prestigious corporate-sponsored National Merit Scholarships.

The NMSC announced approximately 550 additional college-sponsored winners of National Merit Scholarships on Monday, including five from the state of South Carolina. Officials of each sponsor college selected their scholarship winners from among the finalists in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program who plan to attend their institutions. These awards provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study.

"We are very pleased that Emma Ladd has joined a very successful group of scholarship winners in the class of 2018," explained AMHS Principal Catherine Spencer. "Emma has not only distinguished herself academically, but in extracurricular activities as well. Her spirit and well-rounded balance of pursuit of excellence will serve her well in the years to come. We wish her all the best!"

Fourteen graduating seniors from AMHS were awarded money from NMSC in 2018.

This year, 178 colleges and universities from 44 states and the District of Columbia are underwriting Merit Scholarship awards through the National Merit Scholarship Program this year.

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.

Approximately 7,500 Finalists were selected to receive National Merit Scholarships in 2018, totaling over \$31 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 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 any of the CCSD students who were named 2018 National Merit Scholarship winners, contact the Office of Strategy and Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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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.