

**For Immediate Release**

June 5, 2019

**Contact:**

Erica Taylor 843-937-6303

# Media Release

## **CCSD College-Sponsored Merit Scholarship Winners Named**

**Charleston, SC** – Ten Charleston County School District students are being recognized today by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) as winners of National Merit Scholarships financed by U.S. colleges and universities. The Academic Magnet High School (AMHS) and Wando High School (WHS) students are among 3,500 others across the nation.

Office of Strategy and  
Communications

---

**Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Erica Taylor**  
Chief of Staff

### **Winners**

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

- Luke A. Freudenhelm – National Merit Wofford College Scholarship
- Anthony T. Joyce – National Merit University of Alabama Scholarship
- Christopher M. Littlejohn, Jr. – National Merit University of Georgia Scholarship
- Devinder J. Narula – National Merit Clemson University Scholarship
- Rachel N. Smith – National Merit University of Alabama Scholarship
- James G. Staubes – National Merit Clemson University Scholarship
- Zachariah K. Wallace-Wright – National Merit Tufts University Scholarship
- Jonathan Y. Ye – National Merit Boston University Scholarship

#### **Wando High School**

- Austin T. Setser – National Merit Clemson University Scholarship
- Dylan R. Smith – National Merit Texas A&M University Scholarship

"We are extremely pleased and proud to add these students' names to the record-breaking number of National Merit Scholarship winners at AMHS in 2019," said Principal Catherine Spencer. "All of these students have distinguished themselves in academic achievement, as well as adding considerably to the leadership and service ethos at Academic Magnet High School. We look forward to following their future success and positive impact!"

WHS Principal Dr. Sherry M. Eppelsheimer is honored to congratulate the two Wando seniors who were recognized.

"As Austin and Dylan prepare to attend these wonderful institutions, the Wando community stands proud of their academic accomplishments, and we look forward to hearing of their continued success," said Eppelsheimer.

Officials of each sponsor college selected their scholarship winners from among the Finalists in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program 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, 173 higher education institutions are underwriting Merit Scholarship awards through the National Merit Scholarship Program. Sponsor colleges and universities include 95 private and 78 public institutions located in 43 states and the District of Columbia.

Nineteen CCSD students have now been recognized as finalists by NMSC this school year.

This is the third National Merit Scholar release in 2019 by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). NMSC named recipients of corporate-sponsored awards on April 17 and winners of National Merit® \$2500 Scholarships on May 8. Additional recipients of college-sponsored awards will be announced on July 15. By the conclusion of this year's competition, about 7,600 academic champions will have won National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$31 million.

Over 1.6 million juniors in approximately 22,000 high schools entered the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program when they took the 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. Semifinalists were the highest-scoring program entrants in each state and represented less than one percent of the nation's seniors.

For more information about CCSD's 2019 NMSC finalists, please contact the Office of Strategy and Communications at (843) 937-6303.

###

#### **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 spanning 1,300 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.