

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Several CCSD Students Receive National Merit Corporate-Sponsored Scholarships

Charleston, SC – Five 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 64th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

Office of Strategy and
Communications

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More than 1,000 distinguished high school seniors (including 16 from South Carolina) earned scholarships financed by 160 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 2019 corporate-sponsored National Merit Scholarships:

Academic Magnet High School (AMHS)

Colin M. Baker, National Merit South Carolina Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center scholarship

Razeen Basunia, National Merit Boeing Scholarship

Adriana N. Carter, National Merit South Carolina Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center Scholarship

Jared Tucker Lipton, National Merit South Carolina Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center Scholarship

Wando High School (WHS)

Jack H. Frain, National Merit South Carolina Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center Scholarship

“Colin, Razeen, Adriana, and Jared carry on a long tradition of achievement at Academic Magnet High School,” said AMHS Principal Catherine Spenser. “All four of these students embody the highest levels of personal commitment to not only academics, but the arts and athletics as well. They represent the best of Raptor qualities, and we take great pride in their recognition and extend to them our enthusiastic congratulations.”

According to the NMSC, 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 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.

"We at Wando High School could not be more proud of Jack Frain," said WHS Principal Dr. Sherry Eppelsheimer. "His receipt of this scholarship is a direct result of his dedication and commitment not only to his academics, but also to all endeavors he undertakes. He is certainly worthy of this honor."

By the conclusion of the 2019 competition, about 7,600 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 2019 corporate-sponsored National Merit Scholarship award, 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.