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News Release

Tenafly Celebrates National Merit Scholarship and National Hispanic Recognition Program Recipients

10 Tenafly High School Semifinalists are now eligible for National Merit Scholarships

Tenafly, NJ – November 20, 2023 – Tenafly High School proudly announces that seniors Derek Cho, Won-Hee Cho, Benjamin Dreyer, Nathan Goldberg, Yuanning Hui, Junhyoung Kim, Kai Song, Adityan Swaminathan, Jaqueline Yan, and Elliott Yoon have been named Semifinalists in the 69th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. The highest scorers on the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, Semifinalists represent less than one percent of U.S. High School seniors.

From over 16,000 Semifinalists, more than 15,000 are expected to advance to the Finalist level and will be notified of this designation in February 2024. The 2024 National Merit Scholarship winners will then be selected from this group of Finalists as they compete for one of three types of scholarships worth nearly \$28 million:

- National Merit® \$2500 Scholarships
- Corporate-sponsored scholarships
- College-sponsored scholarships

In addition to this year's 10 Semifinalists, Tenafly also recognizes 21 National Merit Commended Students. Our Commended Students are: Kayla Cheng, John Chun, Kay Considine, Sophia E. Crosby, Erik Erdtmann, Arpineh Halajian, Zoe E. Han, Amy He, Tyler Jeong, Lydia Hung, Chloe H. Lee, Clara H. Lee, Elliott Lee, JoonWoon Lee, Somin Lee, Sophia Lee, Arda Oral, Jonathan Pothén, David H. Sen, Alexander T. Seo and Thomas A. Vukic. Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers and may be candidates for Special Scholarships offered by corporate sponsors.

Tenafly High School also celebrates three 11th grade students - Liam Tennenbaum, Lucia Martinez-Pelaez and Pablo Estua Carrillo - who have also been selected as recipients of this year's National Hispanic Recognition Program Award. The National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) recognizes approximately 5,000 Hispanic/Latino juniors each year from

among the more than 400,000 juniors who take the PSAT. As with the National Merit Scholarship Program, NHRP uses the junior year PSAT/NMSQT as the qualifying test.

“Tenafly High School is proud to have so many of our students recognized as National Merit Scholars and NHRP award recipients,” said Tenafly High School Principal Jim Morrison. “This district is known for its academic excellence and high student achievement - and that stems from exceptionally supportive parents and outstanding teachers from kindergarten through grade 12. I have no doubt that each of these bright young men and women will continue to make us all proud in their chosen college and career.”

The Tenafly Board of Education will honor all of these outstanding recipients at this evening’s (November 20, 2023) meeting.

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About the National Merit® Scholarship Program

According to the National Merit® Scholarship Program [press release](#), 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 a high school official 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® or ACT® scores that confirm the student’s earlier performance on the qualifying test.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2024 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join nearly 375,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

For more information on the National Merit Scholarship Program, visit <https://www.nationalmerit.org/>

About the National Hispanic Recognition Program

The National Hispanic Recognition Program ([NHRP](#)) is one of several initiatives the College Board has undertaken to create pathways to college for underrepresented students. Working with the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, the National Hispanic Recognition Program identifies talented Hispanic students and connects them with colleges and scholarships.

*For more information on Tenafly Public Schools, visit <https://www.tenaflyschools.org>.
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