

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Pair of Academic Magnet students receive corporate-sponsored National Merit Scholarships

Office of Communications

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Charleston, SC – Academic Magnet High School's **Lily K. Coulter** and **Jeffrey Song** are receiving corporate-sponsored National Merit Scholarships according to today's announcement by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). Coulter and Song are part of the first group of scholarship winners in the 68th annual program.

Coulter earned a National Merit Aon Scholarship, and Song picked up a National Merit Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Memorial Scholarship.

"Both Lily and Jeffrey are remarkable and deserving of this honor," said Jacob Perlmutter, Academic Magnet's principal. "They represent the finest attributes of our school. We are all proud of these scholars and can't wait to see the great things they will accomplish in college and beyond."

Approximately 840 distinguished high school seniors (including 10 from South Carolina) earned scholarships financed by 107 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 \$1,000 to \$10,000 annually. Some offer a single payment ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

High school juniors entered the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program when they took the 2021 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants.

Once students were selected as semifinalists, they fulfilled requirements to become finalists. They submitted 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, over 15,000 students met finalist requirements.

By the conclusion of the 2023 competition, about 7,140 Finalists will receive National Merit Scholarships totaling nearly \$28 million. According to NMSC, winners are finalists who have 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 some 340 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, contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all of its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 49,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools. Options include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military.