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Media Release

Office of Communications

Five graduating seniors from Academic Magnet earn college-sponsored National Merit Scholarships

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Charleston, SC – The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) recently announced this week that five recent Academic Magnet High School graduates earned National Merit Scholarships financed by U.S. colleges and universities. More than 800 former high school students nationwide received college-sponsored National Merit Scholarships this week, joining 2,900 recipients announced in June.

The following five Academic Magnet graduates were named college-sponsored National Merit Scholarship winners this month:

Nicholas W. Edwards – National Merit Clemson University Scholarship

Scarlet Rutter – National Merit Harvey Mudd College Scholarship

Caroline M. Spann – National Merit Clemson University Scholarship

Thompson W. Sasser – National Merit Clemson University Scholarship

Kabir A. Zaman – National Merit University of South Carolina Scholarship

Twenty-two CCSD students received scholarships in the 69th annual National Merit Scholarship program. [Academic Magnet led the state with three corporate-sponsored winners in April](#), four graduating seniors from a combined three CCSD schools earned [\\$2,500 scholarships in May](#), and [10 CCSD graduates picked up college-sponsored National Merit Scholarships](#) last month.

“These are remarkable individual students who will undoubtedly continue to do great things in the years to come at the colleges that are fortunate enough to have them, said Academic Magnet’s principal, Jacob Perlmutter. “We are very proud of each of them for this recognition and excited to remain connected to such academically talented students.”

Officials of each sponsor college selected their scholarship winners from the finalists in the 2024 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.

Nearly 150 higher education institutions sponsored approximately 3,700 Merit Scholarship awards through the National Merit Scholarship Program this year, including 77 private and 72 public institutions in 42 states and the District of Columbia.

College-sponsored Merit Scholarship winners announced this month are a part of the distinguished group of more than 6,900 high school seniors who received National Merit Scholarships for college undergraduate study worth nearly \$26 million.

High school juniors entered this year's National Merit Scholarship Program when they took the 2022 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 the 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 the finalist requirements.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 to conduct the National Merit Scholarship Program. Most National Merit Scholarships offered each year are underwritten by approximately 320 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 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 50,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse portfolio of educational options and specialized programs delivered to the students of CCSD through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools and programs. Rich educational opportunities for students include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; military; dual credit; and many more.