

**For Immediate Release**

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# Media Release

## **Eight CCSD Graduates Earn College-Sponsored National Merit Scholarships in 2025**

Office of Communications

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**Charleston, SC** - The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) released the names of the 2025 National Merit College-Sponsored Scholarship Winners for the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program last week, and eight of the nine students receiving one from the Tri-County area are recent Charleston County School District (CCSD) graduates.

### **Academic Magnet High School**

Garrett Davis - National Merit Clemson University Scholarship  
Forrest H.L. Norvell - National Merit University of Alabama Scholarship  
Lucas Oppelt - National Merit University of South Carolina Scholarship

### **Charleston County School of the Arts**

Trowbridge G.C. Weeks - National Merit University of South Carolina Scholarship

### **James Island Charter High School**

Noah L. Doughty - National Merit Clemson University Scholarship  
Madison S. Wade - National Merit Furman University Scholarship

### **Lucy Beckham High School**

Jadyn A. Rene - National Merit College of Charleston Scholarship

### **Wando High School**

Aiden C. Norman - National Merit Clemson University Scholarship

A total of 10 graduating seniors from CCSD's Class of 2025 have now received scholarships in the 70<sup>th</sup> annual National Merit Scholarship program.

Officials of each sponsor college selected their scholarship recipients from among the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program finalists 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.

"Trow embodies an incredible combination of artistic brilliance and academic excellence," said Dr. Shannon Cook, Charleston County School of the Arts'

principal. "He exemplifies the best of Charleston County School of the Arts, and we are very proud of him."

This year, 146 higher education institutions are underwriting Merit Scholarship awards through the National Merit Scholarship Program. Sponsor colleges and universities include 74 private and 72 public institutions located in 42 states and the District of Columbia.

Students entered this year's National Merit Scholarship Program when they took the 2023 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants.

Once seniors from the Class of 2025 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 the finalist requirements.

By the conclusion of the 2025 competition, more than 6,930 finalists will have earned the "Merit Scholar" title and received a total of nearly \$26 million in college scholarships.

For more information, please 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.