



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **National Merit begins its search with more than 60 from GCPS**

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation has started its nationwide search for the students who will be named 2019 National Merit Scholars, winners of scholarships worth more than \$31 million that will be announced starting next spring. As part of this first step, 60+ **Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS)** seniors have been named 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program semifinalists. The students from 14 Gwinnett high schools are part of approximately 16,000 top students from across the nation who will now compete for the official National Merit Scholar title and thousands of dollars in scholarships that are awarded annually to graduating seniors.

### **The 2019 Gwinnett National Merit Semifinalists are:**

#### **GWINNETT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Carole C. Boyce**  
2018 Chairman  
District I

**Daniel D. Seckinger**  
2018 Vice Chairman  
District II

**Dr. Mary Kay Murphy**  
District III

**Dr. Robert McClure**  
District IV

**Louise Radloff**  
District V

**J. Alvin Wilbanks**  
CEO/Superintendent

#### **THE MISSION OF GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*is to pursue excellence in academic knowledge, skills, and behavior for each student, resulting in measured improvement against local, national, and world-class standards.*

437 Old Peachtree Road, NW  
Suwanee, GA 30024-2978  
678-301-6000  
[www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us](http://www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us)

It is the policy of Gwinnett County Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, age, or disability in any employment practice, educational program, or any other program, activity, or service.

**2010 and 2014 Winner of**

the **broad prize**  
for urban education



#### **Archer HS**

Sela G. Redford

#### **Brookwood HS**

Aashay H. Amin  
Lawrence J. Bradley  
Brian R. Compau  
Thi H. Dao  
Sara Delawalla  
Eric Lin  
Allen G. Moore  
Haritaa Mourougassamy  
Abigail A. Obeng-Marnu  
Zhiyuan J. Qiu  
Dawson S. Thomas

#### **Collins Hill HS**

Brett P. Muegel

#### **Dacula HS**

Mark M. Tran

#### **Duluth HS**

Aidan S. Donelan  
Vani Senthil  
Atanas C. Tenev  
Andrew Xu  
Jessica E. Yeh

#### **Grayson HS**

Mesum A. Zaidi

#### **Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology**

Jesse Chen  
Jonathan J. Choi  
Joshua Y. Chough  
Nicholas M. Couchara  
Dawei Gao  
Eyosias A. Gebremeskel  
Madison J. Greer  
Alex T. Kim  
Ryan T. Lynch  
Katherine E. Spencer  
Martin J. Still  
Julius L. Tao  
Abbey S. Tilson  
Emily Wang  
Brandon W. Woodward  
Emily L. Xu  
Joseph Zhang  
Shawn X. Zhu

#### **Lanier HS**

Fiona C. Jones

#### **Mill Creek HS**

Calvin Shaw

*-more-*

**Mountain View HS**

Suraj V. Modi

Elise W. Park  
Jackson Wegmet

**Norcross HS**

Jacob Bottomley  
Joseph Mao  
Lennox E. Xu

**Parkview HS**

Angela S. Lee  
Priyanka Menon  
Ryan Tay  
Kareena J. Udeshi

**North Gwinnett HS**

Vishnu K. Achar  
Emma R. Barfield  
Abigail A. Blackmon  
Du S. Chiang  
Madeline V. Franz  
Jack P. Langan  
Amy Park

**Peachtree Ridge HS**

James Cai  
Julian G. Heske  
Shawn Im  
Abby T. Le  
James Lee  
Jungah Soh

These 64 Gwinnett students, part of the Class 2019, were chosen for this competitive process based on their college entrance exam scores. They are competing with other semifinalists from around the nation for some 7,500 National Merit scholarships, worth more than \$31 million.

Approximately 1.6 million students in more than 22,000 high schools entered the competition last school year as juniors by taking the 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as the initial screening for program entrants. The semifinalists named in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program are the highest scoring entrants in each state.

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 scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test. These academically talented students then compete to become finalists. That recognition is determined by looking at the student's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, and honors and awards received.

The students will compete for three types of National Merit Scholarships to be awarded in the spring of 2019.