



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 5, 2020**

*News Media Contact: Communication and Media Relations, 678-301-6020*

## **More than a dozen Gwinnett seniors among National College-Sponsored Merit Scholarship winners**

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) awarded 15 **Gwinnett County Public Schools** (GCPS) seniors 2020 National Merit Scholarships financed by U.S. colleges and universities. Gwinnett's College-Sponsored Merit Scholarship winners are:

### **Brookwood High School**

**Alexandra J. Barskiy**

Probable career field: Actuarial Science

*National Merit University of Alabama Scholarship*

**Aidan T. Hentschel**

Probable career field: Business

*National Merit University of Georgia Scholarship*

### **Grayson High School**

**Claire E. Mistretta**

Probable career field: Nonprofit Management

*National Merit University of Georgia Scholarship*

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

**Juan-Pablo Armes**

Probable career field: Chemistry

*National Merit University of Chicago Scholarship*

**Neha Gregory**

Probable career field: Neuroscience

*National Merit University of Georgia Scholarship*

**Aiden Jacobazzi**

Probable career field: Engineering

*National Merit University of Georgia Scholarship*

**Young Q. Lin**

Probable career field: Undecided

*National Merit Emory University Scholarship*

**Tristan A. Linn**

Probable career field: Mechanical Engineering (Robotics)

*National Merit University of Texas At Dallas Scholarship*

### **Gwinnett County Board of Education**

**Louise Radloff**  
2020 Chairman  
District V

**Carole C. Boyce**  
2020 Vice Chairman  
District I

**Steven B. Knudsen**  
District II

**Dr. Mary Kay Murphy**  
District III

**Everton Blair, Jr.**  
District IV

**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.gcpsk12.org](http://www.gcpsk12.org)

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**



**--more--**

**Faith E. McHan**

Probable career field: Foreign Language  
*National Merit Emory University Scholarship*

**Mill Creek High School**

**Claire M. Grant**

Probable career field: Social Work  
*National Merit University of Georgia Scholarship*

**Madelyn K. Hurd**

Probable career field: Geology  
*National Merit University of Georgia Scholarship*

**Norcross High School**

**Skylar P. Barnash**

Probable career field: Forensics  
*National Merit University of Central Florida Scholarship*

**North Gwinnett High School**

**Page K. Nellis**

Probable career field: Psychology  
*National Merit Emory University Scholarship*

**Gabrielle B. Wheeler**

Probable career field: Engineering  
*National Merit University of Georgia Scholarship*

**South Gwinnett High School**

**Henoc Zinga**

Probable career field: Biochemistry  
*National Merit Vanderbilt University Scholarship*

The National Merit Scholars are part of a group of distinguished students nationwide judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college studies. Officials of each sponsor college selected their winners from among finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program who will attend their institution. The scholarships provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship.

This year, 167 higher education institutions are underwriting Merit Scholarship awards through the National Merit Scholarship Program. Sponsor colleges and universities include 92 private and 75 public institutions located in 43 states and the District of Columbia.

College-sponsored Merit Scholarship winners are a part of the distinguished group of about 7,600 high school seniors who will receive National Merit Scholarships for college undergraduate study worth more than \$31 million.

More than 1.5 million juniors in some 21,000 high schools entered the 2020 National Merit Scholarship competition when they took the 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. Last fall, approximately 16,000 semifinalists were named on a state-representational basis in numbers proportional to each state's percentage of the national total of graduating high school seniors. Semifinalists were the highest-scoring program entrants in each state and represented less than one percent of the nation's seniors.

To compete for Merit Scholarship awards, semifinalists first had to advance to the Finalist level of the competition by fulfilling additional requirements. Each semifinalist was asked to submit 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, some 15,000 met requirements for finalist standing, and more than half of the finalists will be Merit Scholarship winners in 2020.

###