

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Eleven Gwinnett seniors among National Merit winners**

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) awarded 11 **Gwinnett County Public Schools** (GCPS) seniors 2018 National Merit Scholarships financed by U.S. colleges and universities. Gwinnett's College-Sponsored Merit Scholarship winners are:

### **Brookwood High:**

#### **Andrew N. Funston**

Probable career field: Computer Science  
*National Merit Auburn University Scholarship*

#### **Hilary Hsieh**

Probable career field: Food Science  
*National Merit University of Georgia Scholarship*

### **Duluth High:**

#### **Jack R. Baird**

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

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

#### **Jamil F. Kassam**

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

#### **Robert S. Payne**

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

### **Norcross High:**

#### **Chloe D. Pak**

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

### **North Gwinnett High:**

#### **Caitlyn A. Greene**

Probable career field: Activism  
*National Merit Arizona State University Scholarship*

#### **Ahin Kim**

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

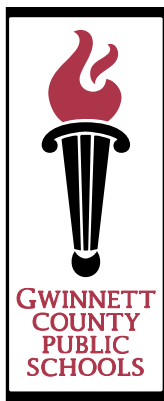
#### **Alvin K. Kim**

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

#### **Evan M. Roussey**

Probable career field: Music  
*National Merit University of North Texas Scholarship*

*-more-*



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

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**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.*

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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



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, 178 higher education institutions are underwriting Merit Scholarship awards through the National Merit Scholarship Program. Sponsor colleges and universities include 100 private and 78 public institutions located in 44 states and the District of Columbia.

College-sponsored Merit Scholarship winners are a part of the distinguished group of about 7,500 high school seniors who will receive National Merit Scholarships for college undergraduate study worth approximately \$31 million.

More than 1.6 million juniors in some 22,000 high schools entered the 2018 National Merit Scholarship competition when they took the 2016 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 2018.

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