



NEWS RELEASE

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

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

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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



Parkview HS:

Karen X. Ye

Probable career field: Psychiatry

National Merit Emory 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, 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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