



NEWS RELEASE

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

Gwinnett County Public Schools seniors awarded Corporate-Sponsored National Merit Scholarships

The **National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC)** announced that nine Gwinnett County Public Schools (**GCPS**) seniors, representing six of the district's high schools, were selected as **2020 Corporate-Sponsored National Merit Scholarship award winners**, earning corporate-sponsored scholarships to help fund their college education. These 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.

Corporate-Sponsored National Merit Scholarship winners from Gwinnett are:

Zachary O. Bloodworth of Brookwood High School

Probable career field: Computer Science

NATIONAL MERIT SOUTHERN COMPANY SCHOLARSHIP

With 46,000 megawatts of generating capacity and 1,500 billion cubic feet of combined natural gas consumption and throughput volume, Southern Company serves 9 million customers through its subsidiaries, including electric operating companies in four states, natural gas distribution companies in seven states, a competitive generation company serving wholesale customers across America, a nationally recognized provider of customized energy solutions, as well as fiber optics and wireless communication

Amen H. Gashaw of Brookwood High School

Probable career field: Government Service

NATIONAL MERIT SOUTHERN COMPANY SCHOLARSHIP

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Victoria J. Chung of Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology

Probable career field: Journalism

NATIONAL MERIT JAMES E. CASEY SCHOLARSHIP

The UPS Foundation was created in 1951 by United Parcel Service. National Merit

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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

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,¹
or any other program, activity, or service.

2010 and 2014 Winner of



James E. Casey Scholarships and James E. Casey Scholarships for children of United Parcel Service employees are supported by the UPS Foundation, in honor of the founder of United Parcel Service.

Luke J. Gries of Norcross High School

Probable career field: Surgical Medicine

NATIONAL MERIT JAMES E. CASEY SCHOLARSHIP

The UPS Foundation was created in 1951 by United Parcel Service. National Merit James E. Casey Scholarships and James E. Casey Scholarships for children of United Parcel Service employees are supported by the UPS Foundation, in honor of the founder of United Parcel Service.

Maya Chande of North Gwinnett High School

Probable career field: Applied Mathematics

NATIONAL MERIT WALGREEN CO. SCHOLARSHIP

Founded in 1901, Walgreens is the nation's largest and fastest growing drugstore chain and the industry leader in sales, profits and technology use. The company operates approximately 4,000 stores in 43 states and Puerto Rico, with sales of over \$28 billion. Walgreens' strategy is focused on convenience. The company strives to provide its patients and customers with outstanding service and the latest technology available.

Toby S. Nguyen of Parkview High School

Probable career field: Computer Science

NATIONAL MERIT SOUTHERN COMPANY SCHOLARSHIP

With 46,000 megawatts of generating capacity and 1,500 billion cubic feet of combined natural gas consumption and throughput volume, Southern Company serves 9 million customers through its subsidiaries, including electric operating companies in four states, natural gas distribution companies in seven states, a competitive generation company serving wholesale customers across America, a nationally recognized provider of customized energy solutions, as well as fiber optics and wireless communications.

Alice Vivian Ao of Peachtree Ridge High School

Probable career field: Computer Science

NATIONAL MERIT VIASAT SCHOLARSHIP

ViaSat, Inc., provides Merit Scholarship awards to the children of employees as part of its commitment to higher education.

William L. Ao of Peachtree Ridge High School

Probable career field: Computer Science

NATIONAL MERIT VIASAT SCHOLARSHIP

ViaSat, Inc., provides Merit Scholarship awards to the children of employees as part of its commitment to higher education.

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Reanna B. Rafiq of Peachtree Ridge High School

Probable career field: Chemical Engineering

NATIONAL MERIT JAMES E. CASEY SCHOLARSHIP

The UPS Foundation was created in 1951 by United Parcel Service. National Merit James E. Casey Scholarships and James E. Casey Scholarships for children of United Parcel Service employees are supported by the UPS Foundation, in honor of the founder of United Parcel Service.

These students are among one group of winners in the 65th annual National Merit Scholarship program. This year, more than 1,000 distinguished high school seniors across the country have won corporate-sponsored National Merit Scholarship awards financed by about 160 corporations, company foundations, and other business organizations.

Scholars were selected from students who advanced to the finalist level in the National Merit Scholarship competition and met criteria of their scholarship sponsors. Corporate sponsors provide National Merit Scholarships for finalists who are children of their employees, residents of communities the company serves, or students who plan to pursue college majors or careers the sponsor wishes to encourage.

Most corporate-funded awards are renewable for up to four years of college undergraduate study and provide annual stipends that range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 per year. Some provide a single payment between \$2,500 and \$5,000. Recipients can use their awards at any regionally accredited U.S. college or university of their choice.

The competition began when more than 1.5 million high school juniors from 21,000 high schools took the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as the initial screening for program entrants. The highest-scoring participants in each state were then selected as semifinalists. From the semifinalist group, 16,000 met the very high academic standards and other requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition. About 7,600 will be named scholarship winners, with additional winners named throughout the spring and into summer.

For more information about the NMSC, contact (847) 866-5100