



## NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

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### NATIONAL MERIT® SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS April 19, 2017 Announcement

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**Advance: For release on Wednesday, April 19, 2017**

**Note to editors:** Corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship® winners in your state are listed alphabetically by city following this press release. News media are encouraged to contact high school principals for additional information about these outstanding students.

*This material is prepared solely for news media to announce the names of Merit Scholar® designees; its use for any other purpose is prohibited.*

*This is the first announcement of National Merit Scholars in 2017 by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). NMSC will name recipients of National Merit® \$2500 Scholarships on May 10, and winners of college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards on June 7 and July 17. By the conclusion of this year's competition, about 7,500 academic champions will have won National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million.*

### Corporate-Sponsored Merit Scholarship Winners

(Evanston, Illinois) Today, National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) released the names of the first group of winners in the 62nd annual National Merit Scholarship Program. More than 1,000 distinguished high school seniors have won corporate-sponsored National Merit Scholarship awards financed by about 200 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, who are residents of communities the company serves, or who plan to pursue college majors or careers the sponsor wishes to encourage.

Most of these awards are renewable for up to four years of college undergraduate study and provide annual stipends that range from \$500 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.

*Add one*  
*Corporate-Sponsored Merit Scholarship Winners*

Funding for these National Merit Scholarships is provided by corporate organizations that represent nearly all sectors of American industry. Sponsors from the business community have underwritten awards offered in all 62 competitions, expending or committing more than \$767 million to support the intellectual development of the nation's scholastically talented youth.

### **2017 National Merit Scholarship Competition**

Over 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program when they took the 2015 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. In September 2016, some 16,000 Semifinalists were designated 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 be considered for a National Merit Scholarship, Semifinalists had to fulfill requirements to advance to Finalist standing. Each Semifinalist was asked to complete 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 their qualifying test performance. From the Semifinalist group, some 15,000 met Finalist requirements.

By the conclusion of the 2017 competition, about 7,500 Finalists will have been selected to receive National Merit Scholarships totaling over \$32 million. Winners are the Finalist candidates judged to have the strongest combination of academic skills and achievements, extracurricular accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 to conduct the National Merit Scholarship Program. The majority of National Merit Scholarships offered each year are underwritten by some 420 independent corporate and college sponsors that support NMSC's efforts to honor the nation's scholastically talented youth and encourage academic excellence at all levels of education.

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**CAUTION:** Any attempt to compare high schools on the basis of numbers of Merit Scholarship winners will lead to erroneous and unsound conclusions. The National Merit Scholarship Program honors *individual* students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies. The program does not measure the quality or effectiveness of education within a school, system, or state.

Allison V. Do	BRENTWOOD 37027	BATTLE GROUND ACADEMY, FRANKLIN
Probable career field: Biochemistry		
<b>NATIONAL MERIT NORTHRUP GRUMMAN SCHOLARSHIP</b>		
Northrop Grumman Corporation, based in Los Angeles, California, is a global corporation primarily serving the defense and electronic systems requirements of governments, commerce, and industry in the U.S. and friendly nations around the world. Northrop Grumman Corporation annually supports Merit Scholarship awards for the sons and daughters of employees.		
Chiraag V. Kaushik	BRENTWOOD 37027	BRENTWOOD H. S., BRENTWOOD
Probable career field: Engineering		
<b>NATIONAL MERIT SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC NORTH AMERICA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP</b>		
Schneider Electric North America Foundation, a general purpose foundation funded by Schneider Electric/Square D Company, sponsors Merit Scholarship awards for children of Schneider Electric/Square D employees and employees of its wholly-owned subsidiaries. The Foundation maintains a program of financial support to educational institutions, including direct grants and matching of employee gifts to such institutions. Other support of the educational process includes a tuition refund program for employees.		
Ashley N. Klee	BRENTWOOD 37027	RAVENWOOD H. S., BRENTWOOD
Probable career field: Engineering		
<b>NATIONAL MERIT SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC NORTH AMERICA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP</b>		
Schneider Electric North America Foundation, a general purpose foundation funded by Schneider Electric/Square D Company, sponsors Merit Scholarship awards for children of Schneider Electric/Square D employees and employees of its wholly-owned subsidiaries. The Foundation maintains a program of financial support to educational institutions, including direct grants and matching of employee gifts to such institutions. Other support of the educational process includes a tuition refund program for employees.		
Daniel F. Nicastro	BRENTWOOD 37027	RAVENWOOD H. S., BRENTWOOD
Probable career field: Undecided		
<b>NATIONAL MERIT BRIDGESTONE AMERICAS, INC. SCHOLARSHIP</b>		
Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund provides annual scholarships to sons and daughters of Bridgestone Americas employees and retirees nationwide who seek college educations. These awards are part of an education program which includes direct grants to public and private higher education institutions.		
Ashley M. Mayes	CLARKSVILLE 37043	ROSSVIEW H. S., CLARKSVILLE
Probable career field: Law		
<b>NATIONAL MERIT WALGREEN CO. SCHOLARSHIP</b>		
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.		
Jacob G. Judd	CLEVELAND 37320	WALKER VALLEY H. S., CLEVELAND
Probable career field: Mathematics		
<b>NATIONAL MERIT EATON SCHOLARSHIP</b>		
Eaton Charitable Fund sponsors awards for children of employees of Eaton Corporation, Cleveland, Ohio. Eaton is a manufacturer of advanced technology products, serving worldwide transportation and industrial markets. Its products include truck, off-highway vehicle and passenger car components; electrical and electronic systems and sub-systems; materials handling vehicles and systems; industrial power transmission systems and components; and industrial and commercial controls.		
David Michael Price II	FRANKLIN 37064	CENTENNIAL H. S., FRANKLIN
Probable career field: Aerospace Engineering		
<b>NATIONAL MERIT PARKER HANNIFIN SCHOLARSHIP</b>		
Parker Hannifin Corporation, headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, manufactures the world's most complete line of fluid systems components for the industrial, automotive, aerospace, aviation and marine markets. It has employees in more than 150 facilities worldwide. These scholarships are awarded to children of employees on a competitive basis under the sponsorship of the Parker Hannifin Foundation, which also sponsors a matching funds program for assistance to higher education institutions.		
Hunter J. Spivey	FRANKLIN 37067	FRED J. PAGE H. S., FRANKLIN
Probable career field: Physics		
<b>NATIONAL MERIT MORPHOTRUST SCHOLARSHIP</b>		
MorphoTrust USA (Safran) of Billerica, MA is the leading provider of identity solutions and services. One of the benefits MorphoTrust offers its employees is the National Merit Scholarship Program, which provides employees' children with financial assistance toward achieving their college degrees and ultimately fulfilling their dreams.		
Taylor J. Canfield	GRAY 37615	SCIENCE HILL H. S., JOHNSON CITY
Probable career field: Biology		
<b>NATIONAL MERIT EASTMAN SCHOLARSHIP</b>		
Eastman is a global chemical company that produces a broad range of products found in items people use every day. Eastman works with customers to deliver innovative products and solutions while maintaining a commitment to safety and sustainability. Its market-driven approaches take advantage of world-class technology platforms and leading positions in attractive end-markets like transportation, building and construction, and consumables. Eastman is headquartered in Kingsport, TN, and employs 14,000 people around the world.		

<b>Kendall G. Bonner</b>	KINGSPORT 37660	DOBYNS- BENNETT H. S., KINGSPORT
Probable career field: Chemical Engineering		

**NATIONAL MERIT EASTMAN SCHOLARSHIP**

Eastman is a global chemical company that produces a broad range of products found in items people use every day. Eastman works with customers to deliver innovative products and solutions while maintaining a commitment to safety and sustainability. Its market-driven approaches take advantage of world-class technology platforms and leading positions in attractive end-markets like transportation, building and construction, and consumables. Eastman is headquartered in Kingsport, TN, and employs 14,000 people around the world.

<b>Samantha Maness</b>	KINGSPORT 37664	DOBYNS- BENNETT H. S., KINGSPORT
Probable career field: Materials Engineering		

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<b>Jon C. Woods</b>	KINGSPORT 37660	DOBYNS- BENNETT H. S., KINGSPORT
Probable career field: Pediatrics		

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<b>Nalin H. Varma</b>	KNOXVILLE 37934	FARRAGUT H. S., KNOXVILLE
Probable career field: Chemical Engineering		

**NATIONAL MERIT BATTELLE SCHOLARSHIP**

Battelle serves industry and government in the areas of technology development, laboratory management, and technology commercialization. Battelle has operations at more than 100 locations and clients in 30 countries. At Battelle, company officials believe that all students should be able to go as far in school, in college, and in a career as their ability and talent will take them, and that a quality education prepares individuals to contribute effectively to their communities and workplaces.

<b>Joel M. Liebert</b>	LIMESTONE 37681	HOMESCHOOL
Probable career field: Economics		

**NATIONAL MERIT AON SCHOLARSHIP**

Aon Corporation is an international, strategically-diverse company headquartered in Chicago, meeting the insurance and financial services needs of individuals and corporate clients with a broad range of innovative and specialized insurance products marketed through a wide variety of distribution channels. Its brokerage and consulting services are directed toward helping companies, institutions and associations manage risk in a complex and challenging commercial world.

<b>Robin Du</b>	MEMPHIS 38120	WHITE STATION H. S., MEMPHIS
Probable career field: Investment Banking		

**NATIONAL MERIT CITIZEN WATCH SCHOLARSHIP**

Located in Lyndhurst, New Jersey, Citizen Watch Company of America, Inc. proudly sponsors these awards for National Merit Scholarship Program Finalists throughout the United States. CITIZEN holds the leading position in the mid-priced watch market in the United States. Using their proprietary ecologically friendly Eco-Drive technology, CITIZEN watches are powered by light, storing energy that can power the watch for at least six months.

<b>Nathan H. Smith</b>	MURFREESBORO 37128	CENTRAL MAGNET SCHOOL, MURFREESBORO
Probable career field: Chemistry		

**NATIONAL MERIT MARSH & MCLENNAN COMPANIES SCHOLARSHIP**

The companies of MMC are among the world's leading global advice and solutions providers in risk, strategy and human capital. Through our expertise and commitment to excellence, we are dedicated to managing risk, maximizing growth, and creating value for our clients and shareholders. With approximately 58,000 colleagues in more than 100 countries, we help clients identify, plan for and respond to critical business issues and risks.

<b>Emily J. Yardumian</b>	NORMANDY 37360	HOMESCHOOL
Probable career field: Computer Science		

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Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund provides annual scholarships to sons and daughters of Bridgestone Americas employees and retirees nationwide who seek college educations. These awards are part of an education program which includes direct grants to public and private higher education institutions.

<b>Lara S. Blokland</b>	OAK RIDGE 37830	OAK RIDGE H. S., OAK RIDGE
Probable career field: Physics		

**NATIONAL MERIT BATTELLE SCHOLARSHIP**

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