



NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Evanston, Illinois) The student named below has won a National Merit® \$2500 Scholarship.

Nearly all National Merit \$2500 Scholarship recipients of 2019 were announced publicly by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) in May; however, the award this student was chosen to receive became available after that announcement.

Winner:

Matthew H. Walsh
SOUTHBOROUGH, MA 01772

High School Attended:

SAINT MARKS SCHOOL
SOUTHBOROUGH, MA 01772-9105

Probable Career Field: Public Policy

This National Merit \$2500 Scholarship is supported by National Merit Scholarship Corporation's own funds.

By the conclusion of the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program, more than 7,600 Merit Scholarship® awards, worth a total of over \$31 million, will have been offered to distinguished high school seniors for college undergraduate study. Two thousand five hundred of the awards, such as the one this student has won, are National Merit \$2500 Scholarships for which all of the approximately 15,000 Finalists were considered. Winners of these single-payment awards were named in every state, in numbers based on the state's percentage of the national total of graduating high school seniors.

Recipients of National Merit \$2500 Scholarships were selected by a committee of college admission officers and high school counselors who appraised a substantial amount of information submitted by Finalists and their schools. Evaluated were each Finalist's academic record, including difficulty level of subjects studied and grades earned, contributions and leadership in school and community activities, an essay written by the Finalist, and the recommendation written by a high school official.

(more)

This year's competition for National Merit Scholarships began in October 2017 when over 1.6 million juniors in approximately 22,000 U.S. high schools took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. Last fall, the highest-scoring participants in each state, representing less than one percent of the state's seniors, were named Semifinalists on a state-representational basis. Only these 16,000 Semifinalists had an opportunity to continue in the competition.

Approximately 90 percent of the Semifinalists met the very high academic standards and other requirements to advance to the Finalist level. By the conclusion of the 2019 competition, more than half of the 15,000 Finalists will be Merit Scholarship winners, earning the Merit Scholar® title.

Two other types of National Merit Scholarships were offered in this year's competition. More than 1,000 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards were provided to Finalists who met their scholarship sponsors' criteria, and more than 4,100 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards were offered to Finalists who will attend one of the 173 colleges and universities financing them.

NMSC, a not-for-profit corporation that operates without government assistance, was founded in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. The majority of scholarships offered each year are underwritten by approximately 400 independent corporate and college sponsors that share NMSC's goals of honoring scholastically talented youth and providing educational opportunities for them.

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