

## **Semifinalists in the 2022 National Merit® Scholarship Program**

(Evanston, Illinois) Today officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®) announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 67<sup>th</sup> annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$30 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship® award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About 95 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and approximately half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar® title.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by approximately 400 business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

### **Steps in the 2022 Competition**

High school juniors entered the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2020 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. The number of Semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

To become a Finalist, the Semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, in which they provide information about the Semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. A Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT® or ACT® scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.

From the approximately 16,000 Semifinalists, about 15,000 are expected to advance to the Finalist level, and in February they will be notified of this designation. All National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from this group of Finalists. Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.

## **National Merit Scholarships**

Three types of National Merit Scholarships will be offered in the spring of 2022. Every Finalist will compete for one of 2,500 National Merit® \$2500 Scholarships that will be awarded on a state-representational basis. About 1,000 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards will be provided by approximately 220 corporations and business organizations for Finalists who meet their specified criteria, such as children of the grantor's employees or residents of communities where sponsor plants or offices are located. In addition, about 180 colleges and universities are expected to finance some 4,000 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for Finalists who will attend the sponsor institution.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2022 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 362,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

Germantown High School is excited and pleased to announce our four 2022 National Merit Semifinalists-Sam B, Shreenithi L, Isaac T, and Cooper W.





Sam has maintained a 4.0 GPA while taking numerous Honors & Advanced Placement courses throughout his high school career, most recently being named an AP Scholar with Honor. He has been very involved in the Germantown High School band program where he currently serves as a Percussion section leader and as the Principal Bassoonist in the Symphonic band. He was also chosen to attend the Mississippi Lions Band during his 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 12<sup>th</sup> grade years. Sam is an active member of Germantown High School's National Honor Society, Beta Club, and Mu Alpha Theta chapters. Sam also volunteers in the community, specifically at MadCAAP. Congratulations Sam!

Shreenithi has maintained a 4.0 GPA while taking numerous Honors, Dual Enrollment, and Advanced Placement courses throughout her high school career, most recently being named an AP Scholar with Distinction. She has been very involved in the Finance and Economics Challenge programs, while most recently helping contribute to a team finish of 4<sup>th</sup> place at the National Personal Finance Challenge in 2021. Shreenithi has also earned recognition as the Finance student of the year and as the Economics student of the year for 3 years! Additionally, Shreenithi is involved in participating in scientific research opportunities, most recently at the University of Mississippi Tanner Research Lab. Congratulations Shreenithi!





Isaac has maintained a 4.0 GPA while taking numerous Honors & Advanced Placement courses throughout his high school career, most recently being named an AP Scholar with Distinction. He has been very involved in the Germantown High School band program where he currently serves as a section leader and as the Principal Trumpet in the Symphonic band, as well as the Horn Sergeant of this year's marching band. He was also chosen to attend the Mississippi Lions Band during 2020 and 2021. Isaac has been very involved in the Finance and Economics Challenge programs, while most recently helping contribute to a team finish of 4<sup>th</sup> place at the National Personal Finance Challenge in 2021. Isaac is also a founding member of the Metro Leo Club, a youth service organization sponsored by an active Lion's Club. Congratulations Isaac!

Cooper has maintained a 4.0 GPA while taking numerous Honors & Advanced Placement courses throughout his high school career, most recently being named an AP Scholar with Distinction. He has been involved at Germantown High School serving on the FCA leadership team and participating as a varsity football player. Cooper was selected and represented Germantown High School on the Madison County Business League/Economic Development's Association Youth Leadership Program and also attended the University of Mississippi's Lott Leadership Institute. Cooper has been very involved in the Finance and Economics Challenge programs, while most recently helping contribute to a team finish of 4<sup>th</sup> place at the National Personal Finance Challenge in 2021. Cooper volunteers regularly at St. Joseph Catholic Church and through the Mississippi prison systems "Big House Books." Congratulations Cooper!

