



# NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

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## NATIONAL MERIT® SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS July 13, 2020 Announcement

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**For release on Monday, July 13, 2020**

**Note to editors: College-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 last group of National Merit Scholar designees to be announced in 2020 by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). In three spring releases, NMSC announced winners of corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards, National Merit® \$2500 Scholarship awards, and the first group of college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards.*

### Additional College-Sponsored Merit Scholarship Winners

(Evanston, Illinois) Today, National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced over 650 additional winners of National Merit Scholarships financed by colleges and universities. These Merit Scholar designees join more than 3,300 other college-sponsored award recipients who were announced in June.

Officials of each sponsor college selected their scholarship winners from among the Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program who will attend their institution. College-sponsored awards provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship.

This year, 167 colleges and universities are sponsoring about 4,100 Merit Scholarship awards. Sponsor colleges include 92 private and 75 public institutions located in 43 states and the District of Columbia.

*Add one  
Additional College-Sponsored Merit Scholarship Winners*

This final group of winners brings the number of 2020 National Merit Scholars to about 7,600. These distinguished high school graduates will receive scholarships for undergraduate study worth a total of over \$30 million. In addition to college-sponsored awards, two other types of National Merit Scholarships were offered—2,500 National Merit \$2500 Scholarships, for which all Finalists competed, and more than 1,000 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for Finalists who met criteria specified by their grantor organizations.

### **2020 National Merit Scholarship Competition**

This year's competition for National Merit Scholarships began when over 1.5 million juniors in approximately 21,000 high schools took the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. In September 2019, about 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 become a Finalist, each Semifinalist had to complete a detailed scholarship application, which included writing an essay, describing leadership positions and contributions in school and community activities, showing an outstanding academic record, and being endorsed and recommended by a high school official. Semifinalists also had to take the SAT® or ACT® and earn scores that confirmed their performance on the initial qualifying test. From the Semifinalist group, about 15,000 attained Finalist standing, and about half of the Finalists were chosen to receive National Merit Scholarships.

NMSC, a not-for-profit corporation that operates without government assistance, was founded in 1955 to conduct the National Merit Scholarship Program. Over the past 65 years, more than 353,000 outstanding young individuals have won National Merit Scholarships worth over \$1.2 billion. The majority of awards offered each year are underwritten by approximately 400 independent corporate and college sponsors that support NMSC's efforts to recognize scholastically talented youth and encourage the pursuit of academic excellence.

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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.

<b>Alyssa M. Sampson</b> Probable career field: Psychology	APOPKA 32703	FOREST LAKE ACADEMY, APOPKA
<b>NATIONAL MERIT NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA SCHOLARSHIP</b> New College of Florida is a public honors college for the liberal arts and sciences, specializing in advanced undergraduate study. Regularly selected among the nation's best values in higher education, New College's innovative academic program directly involves students in designing individualized curricula to meet each student's educational goals. The college's emphasis on close interaction between students and faculty and its beautiful setting on Florida's Gulf Coast attract students from throughout the U.S. and abroad.		
<b>Alyson K. Garcia</b> Probable career field: Biomedical Engineering	BOCA RATON 33496	OLYMPIC HEIGHTS COMMUNITY H. S., BOCA RATON
<b>NATIONAL MERIT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP</b> FIU is a public, top-ranked research university. From the top of the globe to the ocean's floor FIU researchers are exploring the toughest challenges of our time. FIU has 200 degree programs at the bachelors and master's degree level, and professional programs in law, medicine, and architecture. FIU has more than 56,000 students from all 50 states and over 140 countries. FIU is an Ashoka Changemaker Campus and member of Phi Beta Kappa.		
<b>Thomas Iliev</b> Probable career field: Medicine	BOCA RATON 33496	FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY H. S., BOCA RATON
<b>NATIONAL MERIT FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP</b> Florida Atlantic University (FAU) is a dynamic, national public research university. FAU is recognized as a university of choice for excellence in undergraduate education and the student experience, comprehensive graduate education, visionary and globally relevant research, and transformative engagement with its global communities. With one of the nation's most diverse student bodies, FAU offers more than 170 degree programs to more than 30,000 students.		
<b>Pedro Ivo Almeida</b> Probable career field: Engineering	BOCA RATON 33433	FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY H. S., BOCA RATON
<b>NATIONAL MERIT FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP</b> Florida Atlantic University (FAU) is a dynamic, national public research university. FAU is recognized as a university of choice for excellence in undergraduate education and the student experience, comprehensive graduate education, visionary and globally relevant research, and transformative engagement with its global communities. With one of the nation's most diverse student bodies, FAU offers more than 170 degree programs to more than 30,000 students.		
<b>Ryan Karp</b> Probable career field: Aerospace Engineering	BOCA RATON 33433	PINE CREST SCHOOL, FORT LAUDERDALE
<b>NATIONAL MERIT PURDUE UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP</b> Purdue University is a state-assisted university system with students on five campuses. Among the 25 largest colleges and universities in the nation, Purdue's West Lafayette campus enrollment exceeds 34,000. Undergraduate education at the West Lafayette campus is organized by academic schools: Agriculture; Consumer and Family Sciences; Education; Engineering; Liberal Arts; Management; Pharmacy, Nursing and Health Sciences; Science; Technology; and Veterinary Medicine.		
<b>Matthew F. Mulhall</b> Probable career field: Computer Science	BOCA RATON 33498	PINE CREST SCHOOL, FORT LAUDERDALE
<b>NATIONAL MERIT RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE SCHOLARSHIP</b> Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is a coeducational, technological university in the Capital District of Upstate N.Y. The first School of Engineering & Applied Science in North America, Rensselaer continues its long tradition of educating problem solvers by combining rigorous mathematics and science programs with studies in the humanities and social sciences. More than 4,000 undergraduates and 1,300 graduates compose a student body representing all 50 states and over 60 foreign countries.		
<b>Joseph S. Somerdin</b> Probable career field: Computer Science	BOYNTON BEACH 33473	FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY H. S., BOCA RATON
<b>NATIONAL MERIT UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA SCHOLARSHIP</b> The University of Florida is a public university of about 34,000 undergraduates in Gainesville. With more than 100 undergraduate degree programs, UF provides a broad education and many unique opportunities to help students develop a wide range of skills and strengths that are important in today's competitive job market.		
<b>Jane Chakraborty</b> Probable career field: Pediatric Neurosurgery	CANTONMENT 32533	PENSACOLA H. S., PENSACOLA
<b>NATIONAL MERIT EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP</b> Emory College is the undergraduate division of Emory University, a private, coeducational university located in suburban Atlanta. With over 3,000 students and a 12:1 student-faculty ratio, the college provides the advantages of individual attention plus the resources of a major university. Emory also offers undergraduate schools of Business Administration and Nursing, and graduate schools of Arts and Sciences, Dentistry, Law, Medicine, Allied Health, and Theology.		
<b>Daniel E. Ardity</b> Probable career field: Law	CORAL SPRINGS 33076	NORTH BROWARD PREPARATORY SCHOOL, COCONUT CREEK
<b>NATIONAL MERIT VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP</b> Vanderbilt University is an independent, privately supported university located in Nashville, Tennessee. It was founded in 1873 and is named after Cornelius Vanderbilt who provided funds to establish the university. The university offers undergraduate programs in Liberal Arts, Music, Engineering, Education, and Human Development. Graduate programs are offered in the Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Business, Engineering, Nursing, Divinity, Law, Medicine, and Public Policy.		

<b>Grant Sizemore</b> Probable career field: Finance	DAVIE 33324	AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL, PLANTATION
<b>NATIONAL MERIT FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP</b> Florida State University is located in Tallahassee, Florida's capital city. More than 29,000 students are enrolled in fourteen schools and colleges, all of which offer courses of study leading to the Baccalaureate, Master, and/or Doctoral degrees. In addition, integrated graduate instruction is offered in a variety of institutions, including the Institute of Human Development, Institute of Molecular Biophysics, and Political Research Institute.		
<b>Louis Dietrich Gvzmann Sivilotti</b> Probable career field: Aerospace Engineering	DELTONA 32725	DE LAND H. S., DE LAND
<b>NATIONAL MERIT UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA SCHOLARSHIP</b> The University of Central Florida, located in Orlando, is a member of the State University System of Florida, noted for excellence in undergraduate teaching. Its curriculum combines diversified programs in Engineering, Computer Science, Business Administration, Arts & Sciences, Education, and Health. Graduate programs through the Ph.D. and accompanying research activities provide enhancement and continual educational opportunities.		
<b>Amelia G. Myers</b> Probable career field: Writing	FORT MYERS 33908	CANTERBURY SCHOOL, FORT MYERS
<b>NATIONAL MERIT BOWDOIN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP</b> Founded in 1794, Bowdoin is one of the nation's oldest liberal arts colleges. This independent, nonsectarian, coeducational, residential college is located on a 110-acre campus in Brunswick, Maine. An exceptionally flexible curriculum allows students to tailor their academic programs, and over sixty percent engage in faculty-supervised independent study. Approximately 70 percent of Bowdoin's alumni enter graduate or professional schools within five years of graduation.		
<b>Rajan H. Patel</b> Probable career field: Aerospace Engineering	JACKSONVILLE 32277	STANTON COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL, JACKSONVILLE
<b>NATIONAL MERIT UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA SCHOLARSHIP</b> The University of Florida is a public university of about 34,000 undergraduates in Gainesville. With more than 100 undergraduate degree programs, UF provides a broad education and many unique opportunities to help students develop a wide range of skills and strengths that are important in today's competitive job market.		
<b>Tyler J. Popp</b> Probable career field: History	JACKSONVILLE BEACH 32250	THE BOLLES SCHOOL, JACKSONVILLE
<b>NATIONAL MERIT VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP</b> Vanderbilt University is an independent, privately supported university located in Nashville, Tennessee. It was founded in 1873 and is named after Cornelius Vanderbilt who provided funds to establish the university. The university offers undergraduate programs in Liberal Arts, Music, Engineering, Education, and Human Development. Graduate programs are offered in the Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Business, Engineering, Nursing, Divinity, Law, Medicine, and Public Policy.		
<b>Vivian M. Caballero</b> Probable career field: Medicine	MIAMI 33176	ST. BRENDAN H. S., MIAMI
<b>NATIONAL MERIT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP</b> FIU is a public, top-ranked research university. From the top of the globe to the ocean's floor FIU researchers are exploring the toughest challenges of our time. FIU has 200 degree programs at the bachelors and master's degree level, and professional programs in law, medicine, and architecture. FIU has more than 56,000 students from all 50 states and over 140 countries. FIU is an Ashoka Changemaker Campus and member of Phi Beta Kappa.		
<b>Gabriel J. Marrero</b> Probable career field: Accounting	MIAMI 33185	ARCHIMEDEAN UPPER CONSERVATORY, MIAMI
<b>NATIONAL MERIT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP</b> FIU is a public, top-ranked research university. From the top of the globe to the ocean's floor FIU researchers are exploring the toughest challenges of our time. FIU has 200 degree programs at the bachelors and master's degree level, and professional programs in law, medicine, and architecture. FIU has more than 56,000 students from all 50 states and over 140 countries. FIU is an Ashoka Changemaker Campus and member of Phi Beta Kappa.		
<b>Jaelyn L. Siu</b> Probable career field: Public Health	MIRAMAR 33027	AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL, PLANTATION
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<b>Conner K. Rainey</b> Probable career field: International Relations	NAPLES 34109	BARRON COLLIER H. S., NAPLES
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<b>Daisy J. Hoover</b> Probable career field: Genetics	NORTH MIAMI 33161	MARITIME AND SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY, MIAMI
<b>NATIONAL MERIT DAVIDSON COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP</b> Davidson College is a highly selective liberal arts college located near Charlotte, NC. Sixth in the nation among similar institutions in the number of Rhodes Scholars named from its ranks, Davidson remains intentionally small, with an enrollment of approximately 1,550 men and women. The hallmarks of the Davidson experience are academic rigor, a strong emphasis on the student-faculty relationship, and a supportive community committed to individual excellence and service to others.		
<b>Shane N. Lunsford</b> Probable career field: Economics	NORTH PALM BEACH 33408	SUNCOAST COMMUNITY H. S., RIVIERA BEACH
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<b>Patrick A. Betty</b> Probable career field: History	OCALA 34471	FOREST H. S., OCALA
<b>NATIONAL MERIT UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA SCHOLARSHIP</b> The University of Florida is a public university of about 34,000 undergraduates in Gainesville. With more than 100 undergraduate degree programs, UF provides a broad education and many unique opportunities to help students develop a wide range of skills and strengths that are important in today's competitive job market.		
<b>Harrison B. Knight</b> Probable career field: Undecided	OCALA 34471	VANGUARD H. S., OCALA
<b>NATIONAL MERIT UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO SCHOLARSHIP</b> Chartered in 1890, The University of Chicago's approximately 7,000 undergraduates comprise a community of exceptional student scholars who chose UChicago for its rigorous liberal arts curriculum, small discussion-style classes, and 5:1 student-faculty ratio. Students also prepare for fulfilling careers and competitive graduate schools through professional and extracurricular activities on campus and in Chicago. More than 160 institutes and centers provide research opportunities for students in Chicago and abroad.		
<b>Christy R. Bartel</b> Probable career field: International Relations	OCOEE 34761	HOMESCHOOL
<b>NATIONAL MERIT GORDON COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP</b> Gordon College is a nationally ranked four-year Christian liberal arts institution. Located north of Boston and two miles from the Atlantic Ocean, Gordon offers a unique commitment to character formation and scholarship, striving to graduate men and women distinguished by intellectual maturity and Christian character. Gordon offers 34 majors, leading to degrees in Bachelor of Arts, Science, or Music. Gordon also offers Master of Education, Master of Arts in Teaching, and Master of Music Education degrees.		
<b>Brody E. Thalmann</b> Probable career field: Engineering	ORLANDO 32818	LEGACY CHARTER H. S., OCOEE
<b>NATIONAL MERIT SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP</b> SMU offers the opportunity for individualized study within a university framework. The undergraduate schools of Arts, Humanities and Sciences, Business, and Engineering provide broad curriculum choices, while undergraduate enrollment of about 5,600 allows students to have a strong institutional identification. A combination of these factors, including the university's location in Dallas, provides for an extraordinary undergraduate experience.		
<b>Indu R. Malut</b> Probable career field: Medicine	PALM BEACH GARDENS 33418	SUNCOAST COMMUNITY H. S., RIVIERA BEACH
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<b>Andrew C. Peterson</b> Probable career field: Finance	PARKLAND 33067	NORTH BROWARD PREPARATORY SCHOOL, COCONUT CREEK
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<b>Custer J. Gilchrest</b> Probable career field: Mathematics	PLANTATION 33317	SOUTH PLANTATION H. S., PLANTATION
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<b>Lauren E. Andrews</b> Probable career field: Medicine	SARASOTA 34238	PINE VIEW SCHOOL, OSPREY
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<b>Milo B. Ruffing</b> Probable career field: Geography	SARASOTA 34231	PINE VIEW SCHOOL, OSPREY
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<b>Hannah Varghese</b> Probable career field: Biology	SARASOTA 34232	PINE VIEW SCHOOL, OSPREY
<b>NATIONAL MERIT FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP</b> Florida Atlantic University (FAU) is a dynamic, national public research university. FAU is recognized as a university of choice for excellence in undergraduate education and the student experience, comprehensive graduate education, visionary and globally relevant research, and transformative engagement with its global communities. With one of the nation's most diverse student bodies, FAU offers more than 170 degree programs to more than 30,000 students.		
<b>Julianna Chicerelli</b> Probable career field: Film Production	ST JOHNS 32259	BARTRAM TRAIL H. S., JACKSONVILLE
<b>NATIONAL MERIT FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP</b> Florida State University is located in Tallahassee, Florida's capital city. More than 29,000 students are enrolled in fourteen schools and colleges, all of which offer courses of study leading to the Baccalaureate, Master, and/or Doctoral degrees. In addition, integrated graduate instruction is offered in a variety of institutions, including the Institute of Human Development, Institute of Molecular Biophysics, and Political Research Institute.		
<b>Isaiah C. Lee</b> Probable career field: Engineering	TALLAHASSEE 32311	JAMES S. RICKARDS H. S., TALLAHASSEE
<b>NATIONAL MERIT UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SCHOLARSHIP</b> The University of Southern California is private, coeducational, and nonsectarian, and is located in the heart of the city of Los Angeles. Undergraduate enrollment is nearly 14,000 students. A College of Letters, Arts and Sciences is complemented by 19 professional and graduate schools offering undergraduate and graduate degrees. Graduate enrollment is about 12,000.		
<b>Ludong Li</b> Probable career field: Law	TALLAHASSEE 32309	LAWTON CHILES H. S., TALLAHASSEE
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<b>Kendall M. Palmer</b> Probable career field: Chemistry	TAMPA 33615	HOWARD W. BLAKE H. S., TAMPA
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<b>Sierra Shellabarger</b> Probable career field: Medicine	TAMPA 33629	T. R. ROBINSON H. S., TAMPA
<b>NATIONAL MERIT UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA SCHOLARSHIP</b> The University of South Florida has four campuses, in Tampa (main campus), St. Petersburg, Sarasota, and Lakeland. The university enrolls over 41,000 students in Bachelor's, Master's, and Ph.D. programs of the College and Schools of Arts & Sciences, Architecture, Business, Education, Engineering, Health Sciences, Honors, Marine Science, Medicine, Nursing, Public Health, and Visual & Performing Arts and Pre-Medical preparations. Honors students enjoy unique undergraduate research opportunities.		
<b>Kelly Y. Tian</b> Probable career field: Dance	TAMPA 33647	C. LEON KING H. S., TAMPA
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<b>Nafisa Israt Uddin</b> Probable career field: Biomedicine	TAMPA 33647	C. LEON KING H. S., TAMPA
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<b>Aidan T. Leo</b> Probable career field: Engineering	WESTON 33332	AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL, PLANTATION
<b>NATIONAL MERIT UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA SCHOLARSHIP</b> The University of Florida is a public university of about 34,000 undergraduates in Gainesville. With more than 100 undergraduate degree programs, UF provides a broad education and many unique opportunities to help students develop a wide range of skills and strengths that are important in today's competitive job market.		

**Samuel M. Rincon**  
Probable career field: Academia

WESTON 33331

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS H. S.,  
FORT LAUDERDALE

**NATIONAL MERIT UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA SCHOLARSHIP**

The University of Central Florida, located in Orlando, is a member of the State University System of Florida, noted for excellence in undergraduate teaching. Its curriculum combines diversified programs in Engineering, Computer Science, Business Administration, Arts & Sciences, Education, and Health. Graduate programs through the Ph.D. and accompanying research activities provide enhancement and continual educational opportunities.