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16 DCSD Seniors Advance to the Semifinals in the Prestigious National Merit Scholarship Competition

(STONE MOUNTAIN, GA) – The National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced today that 16 outstanding DCSD high school students are among 16,000 nationwide semifinalists for this year’s prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program.

The DCDS seniors and their schools are: Neathan Aresh, Colette Bradford, Isaac Campbell, Nicholas Harrison, Gabriel Lerner-Sperow, Lucy Osborne, Tobias Russell, Nathan Scherrer, and Sanchit Sehga Krishna Srivatsa (**Chamblee High**); Sunney Gao (**Druid Hills High**); Jeffery Finger and Caleb Mahle (**Dunwoody High School**); and Leah James Ricks, Quinton Maulding, and Steven Reid (**Lakeside High**).

These exceptional seniors now compete for 7,250 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million. Competition winners may earn up to \$2,500 from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, an undisclosed amount from corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards, and similar college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards.

Semifinalists were selected based on outstanding academic records, school recommendations, written an essay, and qualifying SAT or ACT scores. To become a finalist, semifinalists and high school officials must submit a detailed scholarship application to include academic records, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards.

Chosen finalists will be notified in February, and all National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from this group.

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.

For more information on the National Merit Scholarship Program, see: <https://www.nationalmerit.org/>

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