

For Immediate Release

September 14, 2016

Contact:

Andy Pruitt 843-937-6583

Media Release

22 CCSD Students Named 2017 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Office of Strategy and
Communications

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Erica S. Taylor
Executive Director

Charleston, SC — Students from four (4) Charleston County School District high schools were announced as Semifinalists for the 2017 National Merit Scholarship (NMSC) today.

NMSC officials announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 62nd 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 about \$33 million that will be offered next spring.

Congratulations to the following 2017 CCSD Semifinalists:

Academic Magnet

Christopher E. Diamond-
Hettinger
Thomas V. Feingold
Olive K. Gardner
Benjamin J. Holmes
Martyn B. Lemon
Charlotte A. Lucas
Katherine M. Moseley
Anna F. Tavormina
William R. Tonks
Kerri L. Wong

Wando High

Gabrielle W. Blackburn
Thomas Blyth
Oscar Garcia
Lia T. Hsu-Rodriguez
Peyton S. McKellips
Samuel J. Packard
Matthew F. Pitts
Hunter R. Ross
Justin E. Taylor
Noah W. Wright

School of the Arts

Evan E. Oates

West Ashley High

James B. Altman

"These seniors are being recognized for their demonstrated exemplary academic skills and abilities," said CCSD Superintendent Gerrita Postlewait. "The District shares in the tremendous pride their families, friends, and school have for their achievements."

About 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2015 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 his or her high school 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 scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.

2017 National Merit Scholarship winners will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July.

###

About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 schools and several specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities led by associate superintendents. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.