



## NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200, Evanston, Illinois 60201-4897 (847) 866-5100

### NATIONAL MERIT® SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

#### July 9, 2012 Announcement

Contact: Eileen Artemakis  
Public Information

Phone: (847) 866-5100  
E-mail: [mediainfo@nmerit.net](mailto:mediainfo@nmerit.net)  
Website: [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org)

#### FOR RELEASE: July 9, 2012

**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 2012 by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). In three spring releases, NMSC announced winners of National Merit® \$2500 Scholarship awards, corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards, and the first group of college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards.*

#### Additional College-sponsored Merit Scholarship Winners Named

(Evanston, Illinois) More than 2,000 additional winners of National Merit Scholarships financed by colleges and universities were announced by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) today. These Merit Scholar designees join over 2,500 other college-sponsored award recipients who were announced in late May.

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, 197 colleges and universities are sponsoring about 4,600 Merit Scholarship awards. Sponsor colleges include 117 private and 80 public institutions located in 45 states and the District of Columbia.

This final group of winners brings the number of 2012 National Merit Scholars to approximately 8,100. These distinguished high school graduates will receive scholarships for undergraduate study worth a total of over \$35 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 over 1,000 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for Finalists who met criteria specified by their grantor organizations.

### **2012 National Merit Scholarship Competition**

This year's competition for National Merit Scholarships began when approximately 1.5 million juniors in some 22,000 high schools took the 2010 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. In September 2011, 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 submit a detailed scholarship application, which included writing an essay and 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 and earn scores that confirmed their performance on the initial qualifying test. From the Semifinalist group, about 15,000 attained Finalist standing, and more than half of the Finalists were chosen to receive National Merit Scholarships.

NMSC, a not-for-profit corporation that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 to conduct the National Merit Scholarship Program. Over the past 57 years, more than 292,000 outstanding young men and women have won National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$1 billion. The majority of awards offered each year are underwritten by approximately 440 independent corporate and college sponsors that support NMSC's efforts to recognize scholastically talented youth and encourage the pursuit of academic excellence.

# # #

**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>Forest D. Grayson</b> Probable career field: Astrophysics	HENDERSON 89014	GREEN VALLEY H. S., HENDERSON
<b>NATIONAL MERIT UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA SCHOLARSHIP</b> Founded in 1890, the University of Oklahoma is a doctoral degree-granting research university serving the educational, cultural, economic, and health care needs of the state, region, and nation. Through its 19 colleges, OU provides comprehensive learning experiences in over 300 total majors at the baccalaureate, master's, doctoral, and professional levels. Today OU has some 30,000 students representing 50 states and over 100 countries. The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution.		
<b>Taylor K. Beck</b> Probable career field: Computer Engineering	LAS VEGAS 89138	MEADOWS SCHOOL, LAS VEGAS
<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>Briana L. Hall</b> Probable career field: Economics/Creative Writing	LAS VEGAS 89135	MEADOWS SCHOOL, LAS VEGAS
<b>NATIONAL MERIT UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA SCHOLARSHIP</b> Founded in 1890, the University of Oklahoma is a doctoral degree-granting research university serving the educational, cultural, economic, and health care needs of the state, region, and nation. Through its 19 colleges, OU provides comprehensive learning experiences in over 300 total majors at the baccalaureate, master's, doctoral, and professional levels. Today OU has some 30,000 students representing 50 states and over 100 countries. The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution.		
<b>Max I. Howald</b> Probable career field: Engineering	LAS VEGAS 89144	ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES ACADEMY, LAS VEGAS
<b>NATIONAL MERIT GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP</b> Georgia Institute of Technology is a state-supported institution located near the heart of Atlanta. With a total enrollment of approximately 13,000 students, 3,500 are in graduate programs. Over 25 different degree programs are offered for undergraduates in Engineering, Science, Architecture, and Industrial Management. Most of these fields also offer the graduate degree. Students come from all 50 states and over 50 foreign countries.		
<b>Timothy R. Mallon</b> Probable career field: Psychology	LAS VEGAS 89144	PALO VERDE H. S., LAS VEGAS
<b>NATIONAL MERIT UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO SCHOLARSHIP</b> The University of Nevada, Reno is one of the country's major land-grant research institutions, featuring a picturesque 255-acre campus in the nation's fastest growing state. The academic atmosphere at Nevada is vibrant, challenging and personal. Facilities include technologically advanced classrooms and first-class laboratories. Learning is a partnership between students and faculty involving study, research and hands-on experience.		
<b>Ian S. Stewart</b> Probable career field: Aerospace Engineering	LAS VEGAS 89110	RANCHO H. S., LAS VEGAS
<b>NATIONAL MERIT UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO SCHOLARSHIP</b> The University of Nevada, Reno is one of the country's major land-grant research institutions, featuring a picturesque 255-acre campus in the nation's fastest growing state. The academic atmosphere at Nevada is vibrant, challenging and personal. Facilities include technologically advanced classrooms and first-class laboratories. Learning is a partnership between students and faculty involving study, research and hands-on experience.		
<b>Genevieve G. Taylor</b> Probable career field: Public Service/Law	LAS VEGAS 89128	GREEN VALLEY H. S., HENDERSON
<b>NATIONAL MERIT UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL SCHOLARSHIP</b> The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, founded in 1789, was the first state university. Carolina enrolls 15,400 undergraduates and 8,780 graduate students and provides instruction and research in the Liberal Arts, Sciences, Fine Arts, Journalism and Mass Communication, Education, Business, Medicine, Dentistry, and Law. Carolina's rich history, outstanding facilities, and research opportunities offer students a superior foundation for advanced study and professional careers.		
<b>Durin Y. Uddin</b> Probable career field: Medicine	LAS VEGAS 89148	SIERRA VISTA H. S., LAS VEGAS
<b>NATIONAL MERIT UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS SCHOLARSHIP</b> The University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) is a vibrant institution of roughly 29,000 students. There are over 200 areas of study including a number of nationally ranked research programs as well as a law and a dental school. Partnerships with entities such as the Brookings Institution provide students with access to some of the most potent research and educational opportunities in the world. The Honors College is a tightly knit community of scholars with innovative programs of study for students in any major.		
<b>Jacob P. Fisk</b> Probable career field: Veterinary Medicine	RENO 89521	TRUCKEE MEADOWS COMMUNITY COLLEGE H. S., RENO
<b>NATIONAL MERIT UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO SCHOLARSHIP</b> The University of Nevada, Reno is one of the country's major land-grant research institutions, featuring a picturesque 255-acre campus in the nation's fastest growing state. The academic atmosphere at Nevada is vibrant, challenging and personal. Facilities include technologically advanced classrooms and first-class laboratories. Learning is a partnership between students and faculty involving study, research and hands-on experience.		

---

Jenna L. Sims

RENO 89523

ROBERT MC QUEEN H. S., RENO

Probable career field: Music/Biology

**NATIONAL MERIT UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO SCHOLARSHIP**

The University of Nevada, Reno is one of the country's major land-grant research institutions, featuring a picturesque 255-acre campus in the nation's fastest growing state. The academic atmosphere at Nevada is vibrant, challenging and personal. Facilities include technologically advanced classrooms and first-class laboratories. Learning is a partnership between students and faculty involving study, research and hands-on experience.