



CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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CCSD students represented in lists of national prestigious scholarships and recognitions

Students named Gates Millennium Scholars, U.S. Presidential semi-finalists and National Merit winners

LAS VEGAS – The Clark County School District (CCSD) celebrates the achievements of high school students who have earned prestigious scholarship awards and recognition through the Gates Millennium Scholarship, United States Presidential Scholars Program and the National Merit Scholarship Program.

The [Gates Millennium Scholarship](#) was established to provide outstanding low-income students with full tuition to any undergraduate college program of their choice as well as funding opportunities for graduate degrees. Having met highly competitive eligibility requirements, the following three CCSD students were among 1,000 selected for the scholarship:

- **Vanni Jefferson Arcaina**, Desert Pines High School
- **Ana Vazquez**, Rancho High School
- **Deshawn Williams**, Southeast Career and Technical Academy

Additionally, three CCSD students were recently named United States Presidential Scholarship semi-finalists:

- **Jake H. Lee**, Green Valley High School
- **Matthew V. Manno**, Advanced Technologies Academy
- **Claire Victoria C. Ong**, Advanced Technologies Academy

Each year, up to 141 students are named as [U.S. Presidential Scholars](#), one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. Application for the program is by invitation only, or by nomination from the chief state school officer. Winners, to be announced later this month, will travel to Washington, D.C. to receive their award.

Last week, CCSD also celebrated three students who were named winners of Corporate-Sponsored Merit Scholarships through the 2015 [National Merit Scholarship](#) Competition. Out of more than 1.4 million high school juniors who were entered in the competition after taking the 2013 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), the following CCSD students were

among the first group of 1,000 winners honored for their exceptional academic ability:

- **Sean Berman**, Green Valley High School - National Merit Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Scholarship winner
- **Eric M. Lujan**, Coronado High School - National Merit State Farm Companies Foundation Scholarship winner
- **West E. Wagner**, Silverado High School - National Merit Luxottica Scholarship winner

Most National Merit Scholarship awards are renewable for up to four years of college undergraduate study and provide annual stipends that range from \$500 to \$10,000 per year. Others provide a single payment between \$2,500 and \$5,000. Winners can use their awards at any regionally accredited U.S. college or university of their choice.

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