



NEWS RELEASE

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Four graduates receive scholarships as National Merit winners

Four recent **Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS)** graduates will start their higher education plans this fall with additional financial assistance as National Merit College-Sponsored Scholarship winners. The four graduates -- from Gwinnett's **Dacula High; Duluth High; Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology; and Norcross High** -- join 12 other Gwinnett students who were named recipients of college-sponsored scholarships earlier this spring.

The latest winners from Gwinnett are:

- **Laura E. Hooper** – Norcross High
National Merit Baylor University Scholarship
Probable career field: Nursing
- **Melinda K. Johnson** – Dacula High
National Merit University of Georgia Scholarship
Probable career field: Law
- **Calvin Q. Li** – Duluth High
National Merit Emory University Scholarship
Probable career field: Business
- **Nikhil Ramesh** – Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology
National Merit Georgia Institute of Technology Scholarship
Probable career field: Engineering

These graduates are part of a group of 1,700 additional student winners nationwide who have earned the honor based on their high school academic performance. They each have earned a scholarship worth between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship.

Each sponsoring college or university selected its scholarship winner from among the finalists in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program who plan to attend their institution. Close to 200 higher education institutions sponsored scholarships through this program this year.

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*is to pursue excellence
in academic knowledge,
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local, national, and
world-class standards.*

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not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex,
religion, national origin, age, or disability in any
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any other program, activity, or service.

2010 Winner of



--more--

More than 1.5 million students entered the competition last school year as juniors by taking the 2009 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as the initial screening for program entrants. The highest scoring participants in each state were then selected as semifinalists.

Finalists were then selected by a review of the student's outstanding academic record; scores from two standardized tests; an endorsement/recommendation by the school principal; and a self-descriptive essay and information about their participation and leadership in school and community activities.

*For more information about the NMSC, contact (847) 866-5100 or visit
www.nationalmerit.org*