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More than 20 GCPS seniors up for national scholarship

A national college scholarship could be in the future for more than 20 Gwinnett students. The 23 Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) seniors were recently named semifinalists in the National Achievement Scholarship Program, making them candidates for scholarships worth some $2.5 million. The program, founded to honor and provide scholarships to academically promising Black American students, annually recognizes high-performing high school seniors. The Gwinnett students are among 1,600 students from across the nation up for the prestigious national scholarship.

Gwinnett’s semifinalists representing 11 of the district’s high schools are:

**Berkmar High**
Dina A. Hassan

**Brookwood High**
Joel A. Owen
Dania A. Roach
Aida J. Syrkett

**Dacula High**
Patricia E. Ekpo

**Duluth High**
Taryn Wilson

**Grayson High**
Candice E. Cobb
Brianna I. Edghill
Paige G. Harrell
Kara E. Thompson

**Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology**
Wesley Mitchell
Amarachi O. Nnakwe

**Norcross High**
Coryn F. Wilson

**Parkview High**
Tiffany A. Agard

**Peachtree Ridge High**
Tara K. Carey
David J. Cox
Kendall A. Fears
Aviance Washington

**Shiloh High**
Siobhanna L. Brown
George M. Coleman
Raheem D. Smith

**South Gwinnett High**
Jamal B. Gaddis
Kadeem J. Yearwood

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The high school seniors qualified for the program based on each student’s high achievement on the 2009 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). More than 160,000 high school juniors from across the nation requested to be considered for the 2011 National Achievement Scholarship Program when they took the PSAT. Out of the 160,000 test-takers who asked to be considered, only 1,600 were designated as semifinalists.

These academically talented students now have the opportunity to advance to the finalist level of the competition. All Achievement Scholarship winners are selected from that finalist group on the basis of their abilities, accomplishments, and potential for success in college. To be considered for finalist status, students must complete a detailed application, present a record of high academic performance throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the school principal, and earn SAT scores that confirm the PSAT/NMSQT performance.

The information collected about each finalist will be used in the selection of scholarship winners who will receive one of 800 Achievement Scholarship awards, all worth a total of $2.5 million.

Winners will be announced in spring of 2011. For more information, contact the National Achievement Scholarship Corporation at (847) 866-5100 or visit www.nationalmerit.org

--30--