

Schools

National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists Named in Phoenixville

Five Phoenixville students are National Merit semifinalist scholars.

By Marlene Lang, Patch Staff

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Five students from Phoenixville were named today as Semifinalists for National Merit Scholarships. (Shutterstock)

PHOENIXVILLE, PA — Semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program competition include four students from Phoenixville High School and one home school student.

The nationwide pool of 16,000 Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state.

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On Wednesday officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced the names of Semifinalists in the 66th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$30 million that will be offered next spring.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

Over 1.5 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants.

To become a Finalist, the Semifinalist and a high school official 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, and write an essay.

From the approximately 16,000 Semifinalists, about 15,000 are expected to advance to the Finalist level, and in February they will be notified of this designation. All National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from this group of Finalists.

Three types of National Merit Scholarships will be offered in the spring of 2021. Every Finalist will compete for one of 2,500 National Merit® \$2500 Scholarships that will be

awarded on a state-representational basis.

In addition, about 180 colleges and universities are expected to finance some 4,100 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for Finalists who will attend the sponsor institution.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2021 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 353,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

Among Pennsylvania Semifinalists in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program are, by area:

PHOENIXVILLE

PHOENIXVILLE AREA HIGH SCHOOL

Correnti, Lauren A.

Duffy, Angus R.

Gerner, Rosa C.

Murphy, Colin C.

HOMESCHOOL

Dodda, Meghana

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