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ECSD NEWS RELEASE

May 10, 2017

This NEWS RELEASE was provided by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation

NATIONAL MERIT® SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS May 10, 2017

National Merit® \$2500 Scholarship Winners

(Evanston, Illinois) Today, National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced this year's National Merit \$2500 Scholarship winners. The 2,500 Merit Scholar designees were chosen from a talent pool of more than 15,000 outstanding Finalists in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program. National Merit \$2500 Scholarship winners are the Finalists in each state judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college studies. The number of winners named in each state is proportional to the state's percentage of the nation's graduating high school seniors.

Congratulations go to:

Carla G. Dias

PENSACOLA

Probable career field: Neurosurgery

PENSACOLA H. S.

PENSACOLA NATIONAL MERIT \$2500 SCHOLARSHIP This award is supported by National Merit Scholarship Corporation's own funds.

Lisa Liebens

MILTON

Probable career field: Biology

PENSACOLA H. S.

PENSACOLA NATIONAL MERIT \$2500 SCHOLARSHIP This award is supported by National Merit Scholarship Corporation's own funds.

Allen L. Litvak III

PENSACOLA

Probable career field: Undecided

PENSACOLA H. S., PENSACOLA NATIONAL MERIT \$2500 SCHOLARSHIP This award is supported by National Merit Scholarship Corporation's own funds.

Katherine M. McCall

PACE

Probable career field: Environmental Science

PENSACOLA H. S., PENSACOLA NATIONAL MERIT \$2500 SCHOLARSHIP This award is supported by National Merit Scholarship Corporation's own funds

Madison J. Michles

PENSACOLA BEACH

Probable career field: Undecided

PENSACOLA H. S.

PENSACOLA NATIONAL MERIT \$2500 SCHOLARSHIP This award is supported by National Merit Scholarship Corporation's own funds.

These Scholars were selected by a committee of college admissions officers and high school counselors, who appraised a substantial amount of information submitted by both the Finalists and their high schools: the academic record, including difficulty level of subjects studied and grades earned; scores from two standardized tests; contributions and leadership in school and community activities; an essay written by the Finalist; and a recommendation written by a high school official. –more

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION 1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200, Evanston, Illinois 60201-4897 (847) 866-5100 Today's release is the second announcement of winners in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program. On April 19, more than 1,000 recipients of corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards were named, and on June 7 and July 17, some 4,000 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship winners will be announced. By the conclusion of this year's competition, about 7,500 academic champions will have won National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million.

Contact: Eileen Artemakis or Matthew Budreau Phone: (847) 866-5100 Public Information E-mail: mediainfo@nmerit.net Website: www.nationalmerit.org

Scholars may use their awards at any regionally accredited U.S. college or university. This year's National Merit Scholarship Program began in October 2015 when over 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. Last fall, the highest-scoring participants in each state, representing less than one percent of the nation's high school seniors, were named Semifinalists on a state-representational basis. Only these 16,000 Semifinalists had an opportunity to continue in the competition.

From the Semifinalist group, some 15,000 students met the very high academic standards and other requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. By

the conclusion of the 2017 program, about 7,500 Finalists will have earned the “Merit Scholar” title and received a total of over \$32 million in college scholarships. NMSC, a not-for-profit corporation that operates without government assistance, was founded in 1955 specifically to conduct the National Merit Scholarship Program. The majority of scholarships offered each year are underwritten by approximately 420 independent corporate and college sponsors that share NMSC’s goals of honoring scholastically talented youth and encouraging academic excellence, at all levels of education.

Media queries about Escambia County School District topics should be directed to Kim Stefansson, at [850-469-6219](tel:850-469-6219) or kstefansson@escambia.k12.fl.us. Like ECSD on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ecsdfi. Go to the Escambia Schools Public Relations page on www.facebook.com/escsd.public to see pictures of recent events. Visit ECSD’s web page at www.escambiaschools.org
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