



Media Release

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MANATEE DISTRICT SENIORS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SEMIFINALISTS

(Bradenton, FL – September 9, 2020) Three Manatee District seniors have been named Semifinalists in the prestigious 66th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school students have the opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$30 million that will be offered next Spring.

The 2021 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists from School District of Manatee County's traditional public and charter schools include:

Amy Jones of Lakewood Ranch High School

Hayden Ross of Southeast High School

Prudny Bonnaire-Fils of State College of Florida Collegiate School

To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. More than 1.5 million juniors, in approx. 21,000 high schools, entered the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The Semifinalists, representing less than one-percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state.

Three types of National Merit Scholarships will be offered in the Spring of 2021: 2,500 National Merit® \$2,500 Scholarships; 1,000 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards; and 4,100 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards. Winners will be announced beginning in April 2021 through July 2021. These scholarship recipients will join approx. 353,000 other students who have earned the Merit Scholar title. **For more information, visit www.nationalmerit.org.**