



Media Release

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TWO ADDITIONAL MANATEE COUNTY STUDENTS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

(Bradenton, FL – June 7, 2022) The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) recently announced winners of National Merit Scholarships financed by U.S. colleges and universities. **Coral Bell**, a graduate from **Palmetto High School**, is among the recipients. She received the National Merit University of Florida Scholarship and plans to study Cell Biology.

The second recipient is **Liam Wilford**, a graduate from **Braden River High School**. He also received the National Merit University of Florida Scholarship and plans to study Aerospace Engineering.

Officials from each sponsor college selected their scholarship winners from the Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program who are attending their institution. The award will provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually, for up to four years of undergraduate study. This year, 155 higher education institutions are sponsoring Merit Scholarship awards.

College-sponsored Merit Scholarship winners are part of the distinguished group of nearly 7,500 high school seniors who will receive National Merit Scholarships for college undergraduate study worth nearly \$28 million.

This brings the total to four National Merit Scholars from Manatee County traditional public high schools this year. In May, **Jonathan Xavioer** from **Southeast High School** was named a \$2,500 scholarship winner. **Alexander Aldama-Apodaca** from **Southeast High School** was announced as a recipient of a corporate-sponsored scholarship award in April.

High school juniors entered the 2022 National Merit Scholarship competition when they took the 2020 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Last fall, approximately 16,000 Semifinalists were named for being the highest-scoring program entrants in each state and represented less than one-percent of the nation's seniors.