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National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Twenty-seven seniors in the Great Neck Public Schools have been named Semifinalists in the prestigious 2017 National Merit Scholarship Competition (NMSC). These Semifinalists are among the 16,000 named nationwide having scored among the highest in New York State on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which they took last year. The National Merit Scholarship Program honors individual students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies. These Semifinalists, who represent less than one percent of seniors in the State, will be identified to colleges and universities in order to increase their educational opportunities. Most Semifinalists will go on to achieve Finalist status in early 2017. Merit Scholarship Winners will be chosen from among the Finalists to receive one or more Merit Scholarship Awards. Awards include: National Merit \$2,500 (single-payment scholarships), Corporate-Sponsored (one-time or renewable four-year awards), and College-Sponsored (renewable for up to four years). Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC and by some 440 business organizations and higher education institutions.

John L. Miller-Great Neck North High School Semifinalists - Nicolas Calto, Jonathan Gao, Solly Kasab, Diana Kim, Zachary Lee, and David Liu.

William A. Shine-Great Neck South High School Semifinalists - Ajay Dheeraj, Lucia Geng, Noah Harouche, Yiqing (Elissa) He, Lynn Hlaing, Kevin Ho, Joo Eun (Medody) Kang, Matthew Ko, Sungmin Ko, XiaoLing (Lee) Li, Maximilian Manicone, Benjamin Newman, Justin Ning, Joshua Putter, Lauren Reiss, Amanda Shen, Melody Yang, Alex Yuan, David Yuan, Sean Zhang, and Aric Zhuang.

National Merit Scholarship Commendations

Thirty-seven seniors in the Great Neck Public Schools have been named Commended Students in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program (NMSP). To achieve this honor, they placed among the top 5 percent of the more than 1.6 million juniors who took the 2015 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Each Commended Student received a Letter of Commendation in recognition of exceptional academic promise. Although Commended Students do not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, some become candidates for scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses. A NMSP spokesperson said, "The young men and women named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success. They represent a valuable national resource. Recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation."

North High's Commended Students - Andrew Abrudescu, Patrick Gao, Julia Goldsamt, Erica Levy, Victoria Liu, Scott Rothbaum, Leila Shirian, Joseph Taied, Katie Tropp-Levy, Aaron Young, and Judy Zhang.

South High's Commended Students - Aram Baghdassarian, William Ban, Rachel Brenner, Sarina Chan, Heidi Chang, Ava Chen, Shaminta Hamidian, Aren Kalash, Ashley Koo, Jin Mo Ko, Allan Lee, Joshua Lee, Jessalyn Li, Olivia Lundelius, William Peng, Adam Pramberger, Haley Raphael, William Ren, Bradley Sheen, Christine Suh, Warner Tsang, Shrinath Viswanathan, Benjamin Weber, Jaysen Zhang, Josephine Zheng, and William Zheng.