

HISD PRESS RELEASE

Nine HISD seniors awarded college-sponsored National Merit Scholarship

June 3, 2020 – Nine Houston Independent School District students from five schools were announced this week as winners of National Merit Scholarships financed by U.S. colleges and universities.

The students — from Bellaire, DeBakey, Energy Institute, Kinder HSPVA, and Westside high schools — received college-sponsored National Merit Scholarships from Boston University, Texas A&M University, Trinity University, University of Houston, and the University of Texas at Dallas.

The scholarships provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study for students who will attend the sponsoring college.

“These financial awards are a reflection of the hard work and commitment of our incredible students, and I am confident they will do more than just pay for their college education,” HISD Interim Superintendent Grenita Lathan said. “They will inspire our students to continue to aim high — both in college and in life.”

HISD’s nine college-sponsored Merit Scholarship winners are part of a distinguished group of about 7,600 high school seniors — or less than one percent of the nation’s seniors — who will receive National Merit Scholarships for college undergraduate study worth over \$30 million.

The National Merit Scholarship Program provides college scholarships to academically talented U.S. high school students who score well on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) and fulfill additional requirements. Scholarships are provided to students from each state who have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for college success.

Earlier this spring, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced the winners of corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards and National Merit \$2,500 Scholarships. Three HISD students won corporate-sponsored scholarships, while another four were awarded \$2,500 National Merit Scholarships. Additional recipients of college-sponsored awards will be announced on July 13.

The winners from HISD are listed below by school.

Bellaire High School

- Carson M. Benner, Texas A&M University
- Vanessa Huynh, University of Houston

- Meghana Devi Kodali, Boston University
- Gabriella M. Wehrung, Trinity University
- Raymond Z. Xu, University of Texas at Dallas

DeBakey High School for Health Professions

- Kevin T. Dang, University of Houston

Energy Institute High School

- Jackson P. McGlothlin, Texas A&M University

Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts

- Gabrielle Lansangan, University of Houston

Westside High School

- Andre S. Tijerina, University of Houston

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The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh-largest in the United States, with 280 schools and more than 209,772 students. The 333-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area, with more than 27,000 employees.

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