



NEWS RELEASE

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Towson High graduate earns college-sponsored National Merit® Scholarship

Towson – The National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced yesterday that Tyler N. Yup, a 2021 graduate of Towson High School, is among the approximately 1,000 distinguished students from across the nation who have earned National Merit® Scholarships financed by U.S. colleges and universities.

Yup, who lives in Owings Mills and plans to study computer programming, received a National Merit University of Maryland Scholarship.

In June, 3,100 other college-sponsored award recipients were announced, including four BCPS 2021 graduates: Lucas A. LaBuff of George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology; Daniel J. Melia of Towson High; Nikitha C. Mupparaju of Catonsville High; and Steven H. Zhang of Dulaney High.

“Congratulations to Tyler Yup and to all the BCPS graduates announced earlier who earned corporate-sponsored, college-sponsored, and \$2,500 National Merit scholarships,” said BCPS Superintendent Dr. Darryl L. Williams. “Your academic excellence inspires other students and reflects the investment made in you by your parents and teachers.”

Officials of each sponsor college selected their scholarship winners from among the finalists in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program who plan to attend their institution. These awards provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship. This year, 160 higher education institutions are underwriting Merit Scholarship awards through the National Merit Scholarship Program.

2021 National Merit Scholarship Competition

More than 1.5 million juniors representing about 21,000 high schools entered the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program when they took the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. In September 2020, approximately 17,000 semifinalists were designated on a state-representational basis in numbers proportional to each state's percentage of the national total of graduating high school seniors. Semifinalists were the highest-scoring program entrants in each state and represented less than 1 percent of the nation's seniors.

To be considered for a National Merit Scholarship, semifinalists had to fulfill requirements to advance to finalist standing. Each semifinalist was asked to complete a detailed scholarship application, which included writing an essay and providing information about extracurricular activities, awards, and leadership positions. Semifinalists also had to have an outstanding academic record and be endorsed and recommended by a high school official. From the semifinalist group, some 16,000 met finalist requirements.

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation's 25th largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).