



NEWS RELEASE

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Towson High senior earns \$2,500 National Merit Scholarship

Towson, MD – Towson High School senior Youssef Tewala is among the 2,500 distinguished high school seniors from across the nation who have earned \$2,500 National Merit® Scholarships. The scholarship recipients were chosen from a pool of more than 15,000 finalists in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Tewala, who lives in Towson, plans a career in surgical medicine.

National Merit \$2500 Scholarship winners are the finalists in each state judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college studies. The number of winners named in each state is proportional to the state's percentage of the nation's graduating high school seniors.

The scholars were selected by a committee of college admissions officers and high school counselors, who reviewed the students' academic records, community service, and leadership activities as well as an essay written by the finalist and a recommendation written by a high school administrator.

National Merit Scholarship Corp. (NMSC®) finances most of these single-payment National Merit \$2500 Scholarships. Corporations and company foundations that sponsor awards through NMSC also help underwrite these scholarships. Scholars may use their awards at any regionally-accredited U.S. college or university.

This is the second announcement of National Merit Scholars in 2022 by the NMSC, which named recipients of National Merit® corporate-sponsored scholarships on Apr. 27 and will name winners of college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards on June 1 and July 11. By the conclusion of this year's

competition, about 7,500 finalists will have won National Merit Scholarships worth approximately \$28 million.

2022 National Merit Scholarship Competition

High school juniors across the nation entered the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program when they took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®). Last fall, more than 16,000 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, more than 15,000 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](#).